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The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending January 25, 1958

NATIONAL HANDWRITING TEST—*See page 3*

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE **No. 2027, January 25, 1958**

MAN WHO LOST A GOLD REEF

Strange story of Australia's Never-Never Land

Few people in this country have heard the name of Harold Lasseter, but in Australia it is well-known, for it recalls a strange story of a quest for riches that ended in tragedy, a story that with the passing years has become legend. Interest in this story has been revived by the reported discovery of Harold Lasseter's remains by a film unit which has been gathering television material in the desert lands of Central Australia.

HAROLD LASSETER was a prospector, and his strange story dates back to 1902, when a camel driver found him nearly dead with thirst in desert country near the Petermann Range, on the borders of Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The driver took Lasseter to a surveyor's camp, and on his recovery there he produced a bag of gold nuggets which he said had come from a fabulously rich reef he had stumbled upon, a reef "studded with gold as thick as plums in a pudding."

Three years later Harold Lasseter set out with a party to find that reef again, but he was unable to locate it. Other expeditions afterwards took up the search, but all of them were unsuccessful, and people began to think of Lasseter's Gold Reef as a mirage. But there was always the evidence of that bag of glittering samples.

In 1930 Lasseter himself tried again. This time he and his companions set out in a six-wheeled truck from Alice Springs, and took a light plane to help them in the search. But their luck was out. The plane crashed, and after travelling on blindly in the truck for many weeks, most of the men in the party decided to return to civilisation.

Lasseter refused to give up the search. "If I don't find the reef I won't come back," he said. And with one faithful companion, a man named Paul Johns, he struggled on through the stony desert.

FAMILIAR LANDMARK

At last he recognised a familiar landmark in the distance. Excitedly he sent Johns back to Alice Springs to spread the news and get help, and then went on his way—alone. He was never seen alive again by white men, and his death was subsequently reported by Aborigine tribesmen.

The tragic tale of Lasseter's last lonely journey was afterwards pieced together from scribbled messages found by a man who set out to find him. Concealed in tins under the blackened ashes of camp fires, these messages revealed that he had wandered for eleven weeks, sometimes helped by Aborigines, but finally abandoned by them.

FILM FRAGMENTS

It would seem also that he found his gold reef and he actually photographed it. One or two Aborigines were seen wearing fragments of film as ornaments, and it was guessed that these had come from Lasseter's camera. What is certain is that he died a lonely death in the desert, exhausted from thirst and hunger.

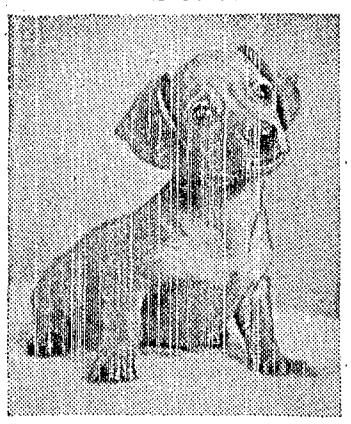
His fabulous gold reef—the Aladdin's Cave that lured him to his death—remains unfound to this day, a legend of the Never-Never Land in the mysterious heart of Australia.

PONIES EARN DOLLARS

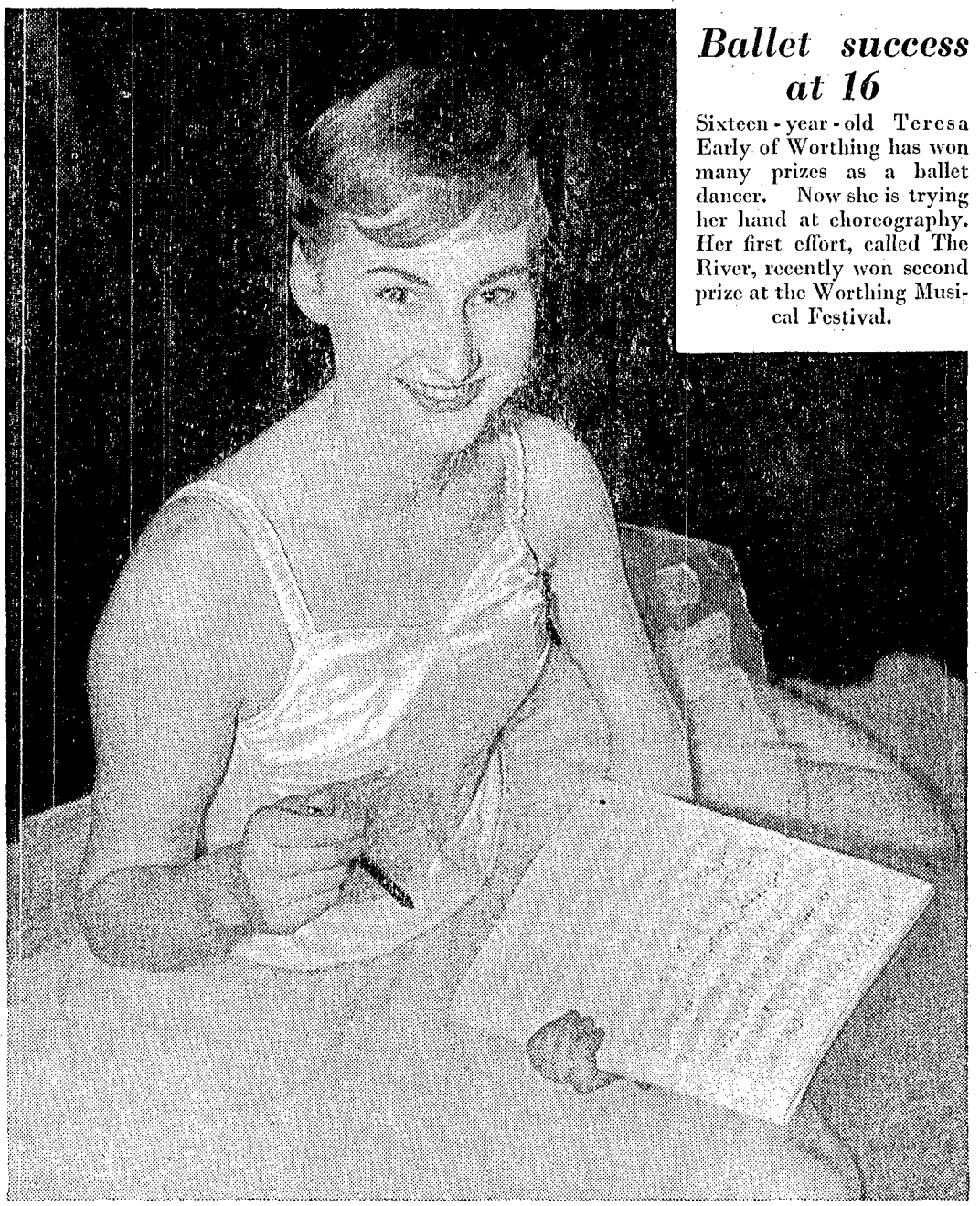
Breeders of Welsh ponies are enjoying their biggest boom for many years. Mechanisation of the coal mines in South Wales has ended the sale of ponies to the pits, but a new market has been found for these intelligent little animals in America, where they are in great demand among young riders.

Last year more than 500 ponies were sold in the United States and nearly another hundred in Canada, earning Britain well over £100,000 in dollars.

In the corner



"Although I've been put in this corner, I'm a good dog, really." This seems to be suggested by the wistful expression on the face of Patrick, a miniature dachsund puppy of Sidcup, Kent.



Ballet success at 16

Sixteen-year-old Teresa Early of Worthing has won many prizes as a ballet dancer. Now she is trying her hand at choreography. Her first effort, called The River, recently won second prize at the Worthing Musical Festival.

Private Stairway for Henry III

The grim old Tower of London is so famous as a fortress and prison that we are apt to forget it was for centuries one of the royal palaces of London.

A reminder of this fact came with a discovery made during excavations near the Wakefield Tower which helped to defend the inner wall on the river side of the fortress. The entrance to a small stairway, in the thickness of that wall has been brought to light and it seems to have been built about 1230 as a private entrance for Henry III.

In those days the Thames was the most convenient highway between the Tower and the royal residence at the Palace of Westminster. Access by boat would have been from the river through an outer gate and into the moat. From the moat the newly-found watergate and stone stairway led to the royal apartments, demolished during the Commonwealth.

The Tower owes a great deal to Henry III. It was during his reign that the whole inner wall with its 13 towers was finished. Then, to prevent prisoners on their way to the fortress from being rescued by their friends in the narrow streets of the City, he had them conveyed by water and put up a special water gate. Because it was used for prisoners it soon got the name of Traitors' Gate.

Except at low tide the Thames originally flowed through this gate as far as the steps below the Bloody Tower on the inner wall—and the newly-discovered stairway.

This new find will be open to public inspection at Whitsun.

SCHOOL FOR SURVIVAL

R.A.F. aircrew are to receive training in how to survive in case of a forced landing in mountainous country, perhaps in deep snow.

During the next three months 180 R.A.F. officers will take a rigorous course at the Winter Survival School at Bad Kehlgrub, in the Harz Mountains of Germany. For four days and nights they will live on the snow-covered slopes in huts made of branches and covered with their parachutes. For food they will depend on emergency rations—and any fish or game they can catch with traps and snares made from parachute harness.

Expert German instructors will teach the men how to use skis, and the training includes learning to make their way on foot across difficult country.

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Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars . London . EC4
JANUARY 25 1958

AWAY WITH SCRIBBLE

THIS week the C N is launching a great new competition to encourage the art of handwriting. That it needs encouragement is a sad fact, for this is an age of scribbling and undoubtedly the typewriter is largely responsible. Time was when people took pride in a "good fist." Today many people do not even trouble to make their signatures readable; indeed, the absurd squiggles that pass for signatures look more like attempts to conceal identity.

To be sure, the typewriter has made life easier; but there are many occasions when it is still necessary to use pen or pencil, particularly when we are young. Our examination papers, for instance, must be hand-written, and the more neatly they are written the less chance there is of our meaning being misunderstood. Neat, clear writing also creates a good impression; scribble merely creates a barrier between writer and reader.

Those who take the trouble to acquire a good, neat style of writing at school find that it becomes second nature.

So, away with scribble; and may your efforts in the C N National Handwriting Test bring you due reward!

JUST AN IDEA

As Benjamin Franklin said: Constant complaint is the poorest sort of pay for all the comforts we enjoy.

NEW KEEPER OF THE NATION'S PURSE

FOLLOWING a dispute in the Cabinet over financial policy, Mr. Derick Heathcoat Amory has become Chancellor of the Exchequer in succession to Mr. Peter Thorneycroft.

This was the second time since he became an M.P. just over 12 years ago that Mr. Amory's progress has been aided by someone else's departure.

The first time was in July 1954, when he became Minister of Agriculture after Sir Thomas Dugdale had resigned over the famous affair of Crichel Down.

If ever there was a "reluctant Minister" it is Mr. Amory. A kindly man, reserved and thoughtful, he has never sought promotion. Indeed, only a strong sense of duty to his family and the West Country from which they sprang impelled him to become an M.P. at all.

He was a Territorial officer when the last war broke out. In the Royal Artillery he went through the bitter Salerno campaign in Italy. Later in the war he was flown into Arnhem, the Dutch bridgehead held by the Germans. He was wounded, and a cousin serving in the same battery was killed. This cousin had been prospective Conservative candidate for Tiverton, the Devonshire home town of the Amorys.

TAKING HIS COUSIN'S PLACE

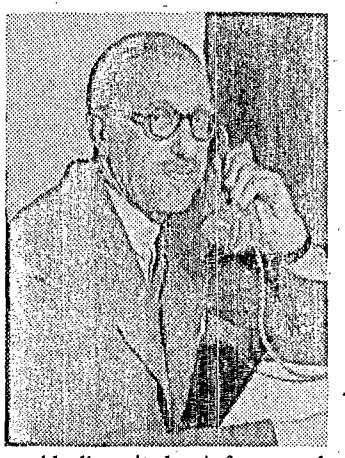
Derick Amory would have preferred to resume the life of a country squire with an active interest in the family firm of lace and textile manufacturers. But he was prevailed upon to take his cousin's place, and was returned to Westminster in the General Election of 1945, which gave Britain a Labour Government.

The House of Commons soon grew to like this rather shy man who was a younger contemporary of Sir Anthony Eden both at Eton and at Christ Church, Oxford.

Because of his own war wounds, and the grasp of human problems which the war had given him, Mr. Amory took a practical interest in the affairs of disabled ex-Servicemen. Accordingly, when Sir Winston became Prime Minister in November 1951, Mr. Amory became Pensions Minister.

He held that office with distinction until the department was merged with National Insurance. At the same time the Government needed to strengthen the Board of Trade. There was no room at the top of this department, so he took on the lesser post of Minister of State at a lower salary.

In 1954 he was made Minister of Agriculture, a job for which, by temperament and inclination, he



was ideally suited. A few months later he also took on the old Ministry of Food with instructions to end all food rationing and the Ministry itself. By April 1955 he was given the new combined title of Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food. In Westminster jargon he was now "the Min. of Ag., Fish, and Food."

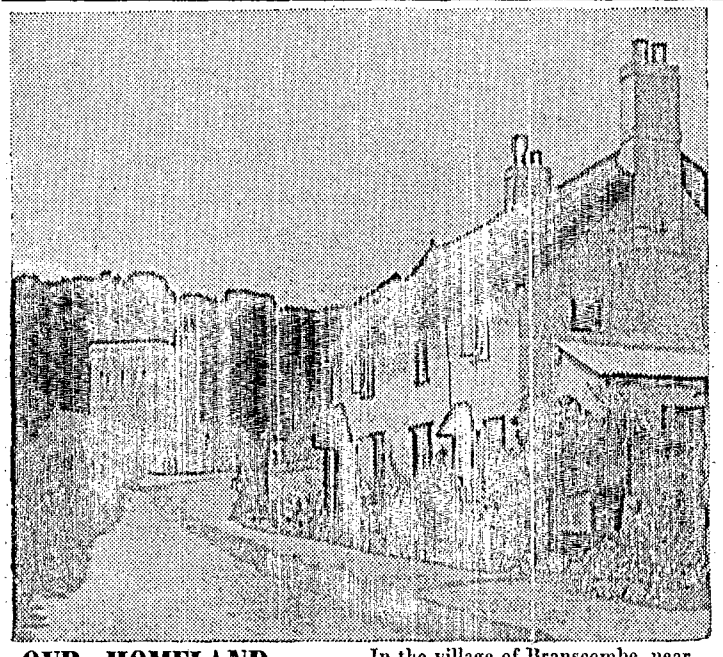
He soon became known as "the farmers' friend" by his policy of "selling the countryside" to townsmen. Milk sales went up when he confessed that for some two years he had been drinking more than a pint of fresh milk a day and rarely suffered from a cold.

THE JOLLY MINISTER

If you go to Northallerton in Yorkshire you will see an inn called The Jolly Minister. The signboard is a portrait of Mr. Amory on horseback—but not in riding kit. The artist, Mr. Claude Harrison, has painted him in pin-striped trousers and carrying a furled umbrella and waving a Homburg hat.

Mr. Amory was born on Boxing Day in 1899. He has never married, and keeps a bachelor flat in a Westminster block not far from the Commons.

At the age of 58 the new Chancellor of the Exchequer takes over a difficult task in a difficult situation—to cut taxes and at the same time strengthen the £. It is not too much to say that the life of the present Government may depend upon his success or failure.



OUR HOMELAND In the village of Branscombe, near Sidmouth, Devon

News from Everywhere

SPUTNIK MEMORIAL

A memorial commemorating the launching of the first Sputnik is being erected in Moscow this year.

British publishers issued nearly 1500 new books and nearly 6000 reprints last year. Nearly 2000 of them were for children.

The Fleur-de-Lis Hotel at Canterbury, one of Britain's oldest inns, is to be demolished. Parts of the hotel date back to the 13th century.

PRIZE ISLAND

A Fijian island was given as a prize in a limerick competition held recently in America.

More than 85,000 British cars were sold in the United States last year compared with 32,305 in 1956.

SWEET-SMELLING EXHAUST

A liquid "perfume" device has been fitted to a number of buses in Philadelphia so that the exhausts emit a pleasant smell.

Among the historic cars on view at a recent show in Los Angeles was the 1912 Daimler in which the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated at Sarajevo in June 1914. This tragedy was the immediate cause of the outbreak of the First World War.

Three out of every four families in the United States own a car. The latest figures issued by the Automobile Manufacturers' Association show that altogether the U.S. has 58,101,000 cars, 10,875,000 lorries, and 255,000 buses, the total number of vehicles being nearly double that of ten years ago.

BANANAS IN THE PARK

Bananas have been successfully grown in a public park at Warrington.

A four-inch-long locust recently travelled in the wheel housing of an R.A.F. plane from Sydney to Northern Ireland.

Harmonica soloist



This German student, 17-year-old Dieter Kapp, was soloist in a recent Royal Festival Hall performance of the Romance for Harmonica, by Ralph Vaughan Williams. This work was originally composed for Larry Adler.

At Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the opening of a new tent theatre had to be postponed because of heavy rain. The scheduled play was The Rainmaker.

FRESH START

About 75,000 children in the German province of Hesse were given free toothbrushes and toothpaste at the beginning of their first term at school.

Victoria, British Columbia, has bought for display during its centenary celebrations this year the balloons displayed in London's Regent Street at Christmas.

Out and About

IT was the prettiest picture: a rivulet draining the meadow had formed a shallow pool. A thaw had brought welcome conditions for the birds, softening the ground and making it easier to find food.

The previous night it had been frozen but now the sun shone, and about the broken edges of thin ice more and more birds alighted. Some would drink first, standing at the edge, dipping their bills in the water and then pointing them up at the sky. Then they would enter the water and splash about, especially the smallest, which were nearly all linnets.

Some sparrows joined in the fun, and several greenfinches, though these did not stay, as if they were bound for somewhere and had just noticed the party at the water and thought they might drop in for a minute.

The largest of the bathers were blackbirds, but one which at first we took for a female blackbird, in quiet dark brown, suddenly shook its wings and showed us the reddish-chestnut flanks under them.

Then we recognised this attractive winter visitor as a redwing. C. D. D.

THEY SAY . . .

I BELIEVE that present-day students are more conscious, deliberate, and explicit—and better trained—in their use of libraries than my own contemporaries.

Sir John Wolfenden

THE great thing about Mr. Macmillan is his absolute "unflapability."

Viscount Hailsham

THERE always will be people ready to meet the challenge of the unknown and the seemingly unattainable. Indeed, it would be a poor world if there were not.

Sir Edward Appleton

THE strength of the modern Commonwealth is that its political evolution is a peaceful process.

Mr. Hugh Gaitskell

IF the fundamental purpose of your life is simply to get all you can for yourself, you may succeed, but success will bring no satisfaction. Satisfaction comes only if your overmastering purpose is devotion to some end or cause which transcends your own individual life.

Dr. T. M. Knox, Principal of St. Andrews University

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POPULAR JOHN AND JANE

For boys, John and David are holding their own as the two most popular names. They head the list compiled from the birth announcements which appeared last year in The Times, The Daily Telegraph, and The Manchester Guardian.

When it comes to girls' names, however, there seems to be not quite so much agreement. Jane and Mary are first and second in The Times; Jane and Elizabeth in The Daily Telegraph; and Ann (or Anne) and Jane in The Manchester Guardian. The first prize seems to go to Jane, who, in The Daily Telegraph, was top for the third year running.

Sports prizes for C N readers

Sports Prizes of their own choice go to these winners of C N Competition No. 31: Beryl Atkins, Hemel Hempstead; Trevor Perrin, Tadworth; Fiona Strang, Birmingham; Richard Thackrah, Ilkley; and Vernon Thompson, Wells. Book Tokens for these runners-up: Diane Ball, Manchester; Norma Brewster, Ballymoney; Robert Eisenberg, Romford; Stanley Jackson, Cleethorpes; Andrea Lewis, Hastings; Richard Lloyd, London, S.E.21; Jacqueline Richards, West Hartlepool; Susan Rider, Cambridge; David Ross, Gullane; and William Wilson, Birmingham.

SOLUTION: 1. Sweden; 2. Pakistan; 3. Australia; 4. Ghana; 5. Red Cross, 6. N.A.T.O.

COAL FROM THE COURSE

There is to be opencast coal-mining on two golf courses in Derbyshire. One, the first of the two to be dug up, is the Ormonde Fields Golf Course, near Alfreton, which is expected to yield 250,000 tons of coal, and arrangements have been made for the work to begin this year. The other course is at Alfreton, and the Coal Board has agreed to delay work here for five years. The two clubs will share courses in turn.

Victorian relic



This is a perambulator about 80 years old. It was made to look rather like a hansom cab, perhaps to please an invalid child. Found at Snowshill, Gloucestershire, it is believed to be the only one of its kind, and is among the exhibits collected from 30 houses of the National Trust on show until January 29 at the famous Christies auction rooms in London.

Children's Newspaper announces The CN National Handwriting Test of 1958



2118 PRIZES . . . VALUE £1000 . . . TO BE WON

THE *seventh* National Handwriting Test for schoolgirls and schoolboys is now open, and CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER invites schools and teachers everywhere in the country to co-operate.

This great new competition is for all full-time pupils of schools and colleges in Great Britain, all Ireland, and the Channel Islands who are *under 17 years of age*. The special Entry Forms will be issued *free and post free* but only through schools.

The Prizes, listed on the right, total One Thousand Pounds in value—and in addition there will be many thousands of Awards of Merit for other boys and girls.

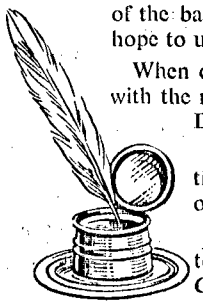
Each entrant has only to copy the Test Passage, a short paragraph on the art of Handwriting (printed on the Entry Form), in his or her normal handwriting.

To make the competition fair and equal for all, entries will be classed in THREE AGE GROUPS, with three double prizes in each group for schools and pupils. You may thus win for *your school* as well as for yourself, or perhaps gain one of the other awards in that list of *2118 prizes*. Read on, then, and see how you can join in !

If *you* would like to be entered for the Test, please show this page to your Teacher and (unless the school has already applied for forms) ask him or her kindly to complete the coupon below and send it to CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER. Remember that entries *must* be on the special Entry Form which is issued to schools on request.

Remember, too, that there is a special age group for *you*, and that your test effort is to be written in the style—script, joined script, or cursive—taught in your school. It may be completed in school or at home, as decided by the Teacher, who is asked to sign it afterwards.

There is NO entry fee, but when sent in every attempt must have affixed to it one of the Tokens (marked **C N Writing Test 1958**) now to be found in every issue of the Newspaper. One of these Tokens is printed at the foot of the back page of this copy—cut it out and keep it carefully if you hope to use it.



When completed, all entry forms are to be sent in in accordance with the rules and directions given in the Entry Form. The Closing Date for entries is Monday, March 31.

The competition will be judged by a committee of educationists and other qualified examiners headed by the Editor of CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER.

(N.B.—It is regretted that the test cannot be extended to schools outside Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Irish Republic.)

The Prize List

GROUP A ... Pupils under 9 Years

1st Prizes :	To the School	£50
	Prize-winning Pupil	£5
2nd Prizes :	To the School	£25
	Prize-winning Pupil	£4
3rd Prizes :	To the School	£10
	Prize-winning Pupil	£3

GROUP B ... Pupils aged 9 to under 12

1st Prizes :	To the School	£50
	Prize-winning Pupil	£5
2nd Prizes :	To the School	£25
	Prize-winning Pupil	£4
3rd Prizes :	To the School	£10
	Prize-winning Pupil	£3

GROUP C ... Pupils of 12 to under 17

1st Prizes :	To the School	£50
	Prize-winning Pupil	£5
2nd Prizes :	To the School	£25
	Prize-winning Pupil	£4
3rd Prizes :	To the School	£10
	Prize-winning Pupil	£3

100 Consolation Prizes: 50 Wrist-watches and 50 copies of the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

2000 Other Prizes: Special "exchange point" Fountain-pens.

10,000 Awards of Merit: Certificates for the best entry from each school submitting 10 or more attempts and not represented in the prize list.

NOTE TO TEACHERS

The Entry Form contains the Test Passage, space for the pupil's attempt, and the full rules and directions. It is issued to schools only on request, and if desired a specimen copy will be sent before the full request is made.

Teachers are asked to be good enough to assess the required number of forms as closely as possible, and to send for them—or for the specimen copy only, in the first place—on this coupon. The form or forms will then be sent free and post free, to be handed out at school.

The last date for form applications is February 28, and the competition closing date is Monday, March 31.

C N

To CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER, Competition Dept., 3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.)

Please send me (free and post free).....copies of the C N NATIONAL HANDWRITING TEST of 1958 Entry Form for my pupils.

.....PRINCIPAL/FORM MASTER or MISTRESS

School

School Address

.....

This coupon may be posted under 2d. stamp if sent unsealed.

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ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

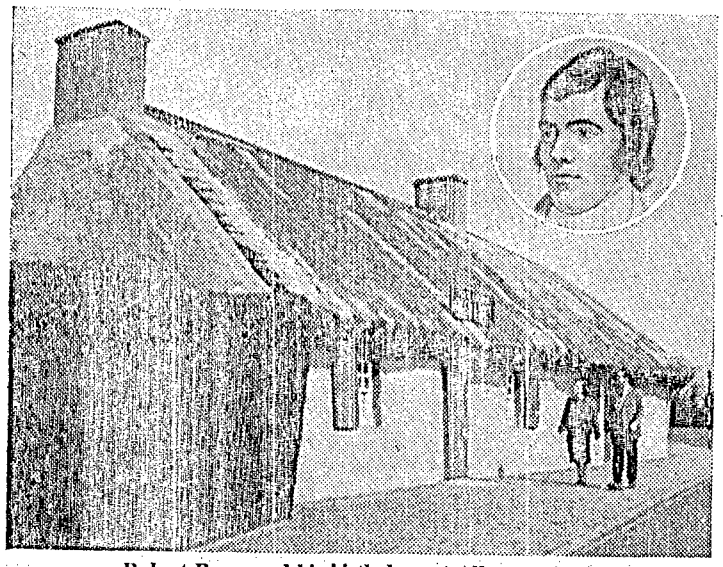
ROBERT BURNS WAS BORN HERE

Two children visit his cottage

FOR Scots people everywhere, next Saturday is one of the most important days in the calendar. It is the anniversary—the 199th—of the birth of the ploughman-poet Robert Burns. He was born on January 25, 1759.

In Children's Hour on Saturday we can hear Born In This Cottage, a two-way conversation by radio between two Scottish children north of the Border, and C. Gordon Glover, who calls himself "an exiled Scot." in London. The youngsters in the North, both 13, are Sandy Hall and Moyra Simpson. The other day they visited Burns's birthplace at Alloway, near Ayr, a clay cottage which his father, William, built with his own hands. So stoutly did he build that the humble dwelling stands firm today, a place of pilgrimage for Scots from all over the world.

Gordon Glover tells me he has never visited the cottage, so the account given by Sandy and Moyra will come as freshly to him as to those of us who are listening, too.

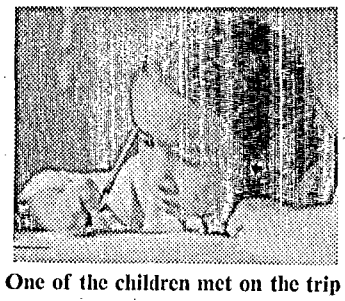


Robert Burns and his birthplace at Alloway, Ayr

THIS IS RUSSIA

15,000-mile trip for television

IN sixty minutes next Tuesday viewers on Associated-Rediffusion will be able to make a 15,000-mile tour of Russia. Caryl Doncaster and Michael Ingrams have just completed a new film, U.S.S.R. Now. It covers their recent journeys not only in and around Moscow but to some of the remotest parts of the country.



One of the children met on the trip

The Russian Government, who gave a lot of help, were so impressed with the finished film that a duplicate copy is being televised over the U.S.S.R. network on the same night that we see it.

Caryl Doncaster, who is chief of A-R features section, travelled 10,000 miles in Russia. One of her visits with Michael Ingrams was to a collective farm in the Ukraine, where they stayed for a week. After she had left for home, by way of India, Ingrams pushed on to Siberia. There the roads were so primitive that he had to go on horseback. To make up for this cold visit, he travelled down to the warm shores of the Black Sea.

"I bathed in October," he told me. "The white sands, the blue skies, and the warm sea made me think I was in a sort of Grecian Bournemouth!"

The Russian people welcomed them everywhere, and seemed fascinated to meet people from the West. They were greedy for news. Quite a number spoke English.

Ingrams said that the schoolchildren take English as a compulsory language.

The Bones are back on the trail

THIEVES who raided a country zoo and took a valuable albino forest cat, pure white with pink eyes, are the quarry sought by the cousins Norman and Henry Bones, Anthony C Wilson's boy detectives, in a new adventure in B B C Children's Hour on Saturday. Helping them in their quest is another cousin, medical student Geoffrey Bones, played by David Enders.

Dr. Ferguson, who brought the forest cat from South America, will be played by Richard Hurndall.

Through the term with Macbeth

YOU would be surprised to know how many grown-ups "eavesdrop" on the T V programmes for schools. At the Associated-Rediffusion offices at Television House, London, I was told that last term at least 150,000 people outside schools were known to watch each T V lesson. No doubt many were parents who wanted to know what their children were seeing on T V, but a good many must have been attracted simply because the programmes were so interesting.

This term we can expect them to be an even stronger magnet, especially on Wednesdays. Starting this week, Associated-Rediffusion's Wednesday lessons will take young viewers through Shakespeare's Macbeth, not as you read it from the book, but rehearsed scene by scene each week as a lively and powerful stage play.

HOW HE FEELS

Macbeth is played by William Devlin, a fine stage actor who became famous on B B C Television several years ago for his magnificent portrayal of King Lear. But he will not only act; he will talk about how he feels in the character of the tormented Macbeth, and the way in which he hopes to pass on these feelings to the audience. Lady Macbeth will be played by Mary Morris, Macduff by Bernard Kay, and Duncan by George Bishop.

Towards the end of the term viewers will see the whole play in a single performance.

Besides the Farming Year, as usual, on Mondays (repeated on Thursdays) A-R Schools T V will deal with atomic power on Tuesdays and the world of books on Fridays.

SKATING IS FUN

But easier to learn with a crowd

THERE'S no lonelier situation in the world than learning to skate on your own. When other people are falling, too, it is much easier to put up with the indignity of sitting down suddenly and slithering along with your legs in the air.

That is the opinion of John Neal, manager of the Westover Ice Rink at Bournemouth, which the B B C cameras visit on Friday for a Children's T V session at the junior skating classes.

"I believe children learn skating much more quickly in big classes," said Mr. Neal.

That is why we shall see large groups on the ice all surging forward—they hope—together!

First in the programme will be a demonstration by juniors doing the proficiency tests which will entitle them to take more advanced classes. The programme will end with an impressive dancing demonstration on the ice by 12-year-olds.



John Neal and an instructor with a group of young learners

The story behind a scoop

JOURNALISM as a career has a fascination of its own. If you would like to know why, tune in Special Assignment in B B C Children's Hour next Tuesday (January 28). This is the first of a series presented by John Alldridge about different aspects of newspaper work. He aims at capturing the atmosphere that surrounds a scoop.

The opening programme will deal with Press photographers, who must have one of the most exciting jobs in the world.

One of the guests will be veteran photographer H. V. Doughty, who took some of the earliest pictures of primitive aircraft in flight. Another will be Douglas H. J. Hardy, O.B.E., A.R.P.S., whose most exciting assignment was covering the Malta story from the air during the last war. And to bring the story up to date, we shall meet Terry Fincher of the Daily Herald, one of the ace Press photographers of today.

Viera is a master of languages—as well as of song

TO be able to sing in 12 languages and talk in eight—that is an accomplishment of which anyone might be proud. And this is the claim of that friendly singer Viera, who has already been heard in the B B C North Region Children's Hour and next Tuesday gives the first of two children's programmes on all regions.

Viera, who is married to Colin Morris, the Whitehall Theatre actor and T V scriptwriter, has two little boys of her own—Nikki (nine) and Julian (six)—and knows the sort of songs that children like best. She has just returned from a T V tour in Holland, Belgium, and Germany.



Viera, with her husband, Colin Morris, and her two sons, Nikki and Julian

The forecast is cold weather

IF it is possible to set everybody shivering by sound radio, C. Gordon Glover is the man who will manage it. In B B C Children's Hour on January 30, he tells me, his aim will be just that—although he is not choosing a thriller to cause the shivers.

"I have chosen the title 'How Bitter Chill It Was' from Keats's 'The Eve of St. Agnes'," he told me. "I'll have forty minutes to set everybody's teeth chattering."

All the bits he can find in books about cold weather, all the poems he can remember that sing of temperatures around zero, two or three deep-freeze stories of his own—all these ingredients will go into the coldest radio pudding you ever tasted. He will whip it up with the stirring story of the Great Frost on the River Thames in the 17th century.

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PONTEFRACT GROWS LESS LIQUORICE

The ancient industry of liquorice-growing which has been practised in and around the Yorkshire town of Pontefract for more than 300 years is dying. Today, there are only two growers left, and one of these has just decided to grow no more after his present crop is finished.

Nobody knows for certain just when the people of Pontefract first began growing liquorice, but the industry certainly goes back to the time of Queen Elizabeth, and may be even older. The crop was first grown for medicinal purposes, and its name comes from a Greek word meaning "sweet root."

Certainly the deep-rooting plants were found to be ideally suited to the rich, loamy soil of the Pontefract district. The industry thrived and was guarded with such jealousy by the local people that to allow a root to leave the district was considered a serious offence.

Cultivation expanded still further when liquorice became popular as a confectionery with the famous liquorice lozenges called Pontefract Cakes.

But this increased prosperity proved to be short-lived, for the demand for liquorice outgrew the local supply, and manufacturers were forced to seek additional sources overseas. As a result the Pontefract growing industry began to decline. Soon there will be only one grower left.

NEW HOME FOR OLD LOCOMOTIVE

One of New Zealand's oldest railway engines is to have a permanent home in the centre of the busy mining town and seaport of Greymouth, on the west coast of South Island.

Called the Opossum, it was a smart young engine eighty years ago when brought to New Zealand to run on brand-new railway tracks. It was running on a new railway line near Greymouth early in the century, but ended its working days hauling logs for a sawmill which was abandoned a few years ago.

It was found last year, quite by chance, half hidden in thick undergrowth near this mill and has since been taken to Greymouth to be preserved.

LATE DELIVERY

A letter posted in Boston, Lincolnshire, to another address in the same town, travelled 8000 miles before it was delivered—three weeks later. It got caught in a Christmas card envelope and went to Springfield, Illinois.

The writer had wished to explain why he could not attend a meeting which had already been held a fortnight before his letter eventually reached its proper destination.

BALLADS OF THE BUSH

A society has been formed in Melbourne to preserve Australia's old Bush ballads. It is called the Folklore Society of Victoria, and its members, armed with notebooks and tape-recorders, take every opportunity of tracing songs and folklore of the pioneering days.

They will travel miles if they hear, say, of an old horsebreaker or a camel driver who knows a string of songs or a miner with early tales of the goldfields. In fact, they seek anyone who can add to the store of links with the Australians of yesteryear—the early drovers and squatters, shearers, bushrangers, and swagmen.

HAIR RAISING !

Hair-raising feats are attributed to a strong man on the staff of the Bombay State Transport. His name is Daulat Ravji Gaikwad, but in their house journal his employers call him a modern Samson; and with good reason, for he is credited with pulling a fully-loaded bus 600 yards by his hair! He can also hang upside down at a great height with four bicycles fastened to his hair.

The story of this headstrong young man is given in the journal of Leyland Motors.



We four in uniform

The nine-year-old Taylor quads of Edmonton, London, recently joined local Boy Scout and Girl Guide troops. Annette is a Brownie, while Kevin, Robert, and Paul are Wolf Cubs.

New ships to the Channel Islands

Two new passenger ships driven by steam turbines are to be built at Cowes for the Weymouth-Channel Islands route. They will be twice as big as the present ships—St. Julien and St. Helier, which they will replace—and will have accommodation, with berths and seats, for 1400 passengers and room for 18 cars. They will start operating from Weymouth in 1960.

Two new 1000-ton cargo vessels are also to be built for the Channel Islands trade. Driven by diesel engines, they will replace the three 30-year-old coal-burning cargo vessels at present in use. They are to be built at Lowestoft and it is hoped that they will be ready for service between Southampton and the Channel Islands next year.

GUARDIAN OF PRECIOUS BOOKS

A new librarian, Mr. E. G. W. Bill, has just been appointed to the Library of Lambeth Palace, London.

Among the books he will have in his care are the Queen's Coronation Bible and Queen Elizabeth I's personal Bible. All the Bibles upon which the monarchs have taken their oath at the Coronation this century are in the library, it being an established tradition that the Coronation Bible should be deposited there.

Altogether the library has about 100,000 printed books, 1500 manuscripts, and several hundred thousand other documents.

Pool of Gibeon uncovered

The famous Pool of Gibeon has been uncovered in the Jordan village of El Gib by American archaeologists. The waters were found to be still flowing at a depth of 82 feet and the pool was at the bottom of 79 steps.

The land surrounding the pool is known as "the field of the strong men" because of the fighting that took place there between the followers of David and those under Abner, Saul's general. We read of this in the Second Book of Samuel.

STAMP NEWS

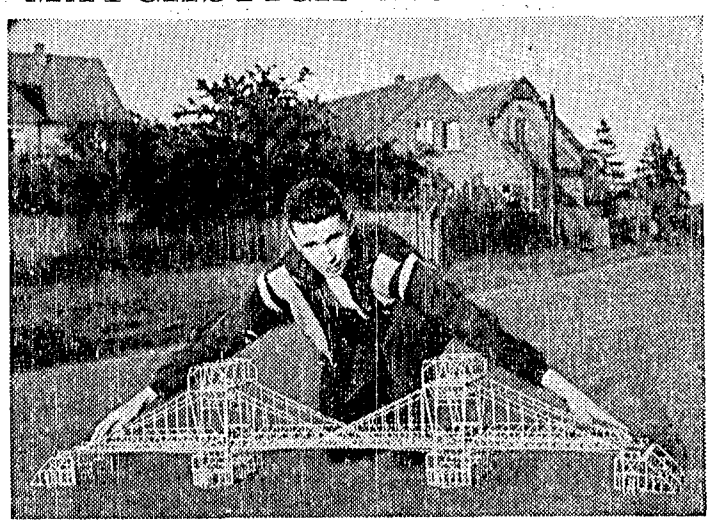
Two comical characters appear on a new German Federal Republic stamp. It is one of a pair issued in honour of Wilhelm Busch, cartoonist and poet, who died 50 years ago.

AUSTRALIA is to have a new set of stamps with an up-to-date portrait of the Queen.

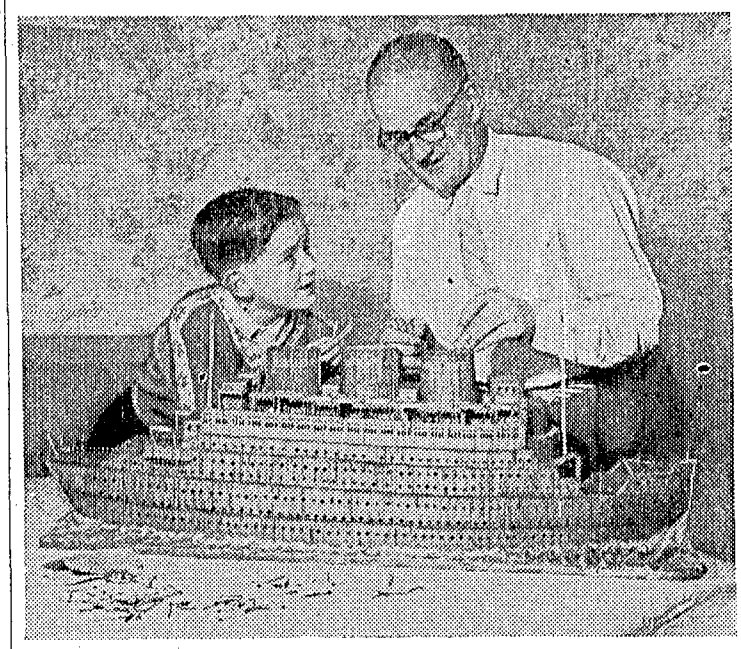
A LADY got a bargain the other day—out of a stamp machine! She put in six pennies and out came a row of stamps, five of which had perforations across the face. They may be worth £100.

GARDENERS to the fore! The United States is to issue a stamp in honour of garden and horticultural clubs.

MATCHSTICK MODELLERS



In the picture above we see a young German railway worker with his fine model of a suspension bridge made of matches. It is six feet long and 14 inches high. Below: Malcolm Powell of Edgware, Middlesex, watches his father at work on his model of the Queen Mary. It has taken Mr. Powell three years to make and in it he has used 63,500 matchsticks and 15lb. of glue.



WALKING ON VERY THICK ICE

In some parts of the Antarctic the ice is thousands of feet thick. Mr. Keith Mather, leader of the Australian Antarctic Expedition, has been measuring the ice cap and reports that in some spots he has found it to be as much as 8500 feet deep.

He also states that his party of six men had crossed several mountain ranges about 3000 feet high which were hidden far down under 5000 feet of ice.

GERMAN WINS BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

A German lorry driver, Walter Zander, of Dusseldorf, has been awarded the British Empire Medal for stopping a runaway bus packed with British tourists.

While climbing a hill the bus developed clutch and brake trouble and started to run backwards towards a steep embankment. With complete disregard for his own safety, Walter Zander controlled the speed of his lorry until the bus ran into it and so was brought to a halt.

COUNTING BIG GAME BY AIR

One of the world's most unusual jobs is that of Dr. H. K. Buechner, an American zoologist, who is making a study of wild life in and around the Murchison Falls National Park in Uganda.

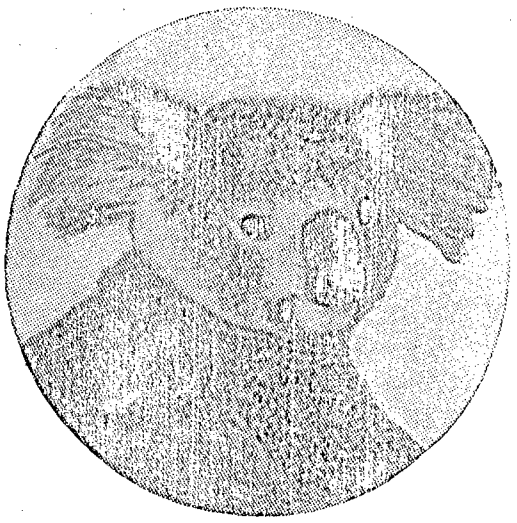
Every month Dr. Buechner flies over 1500 square miles of land, carefully counting all the elephants and buffaloes he can see. He flies at a height of about 700 feet, and in one recent census counted no fewer than 4153 elephants and 5259 buffaloes.

Most of the elephant herds he has seen have been small, although there was one of more than 500 strong. Big herds of buffalo are fairly common.

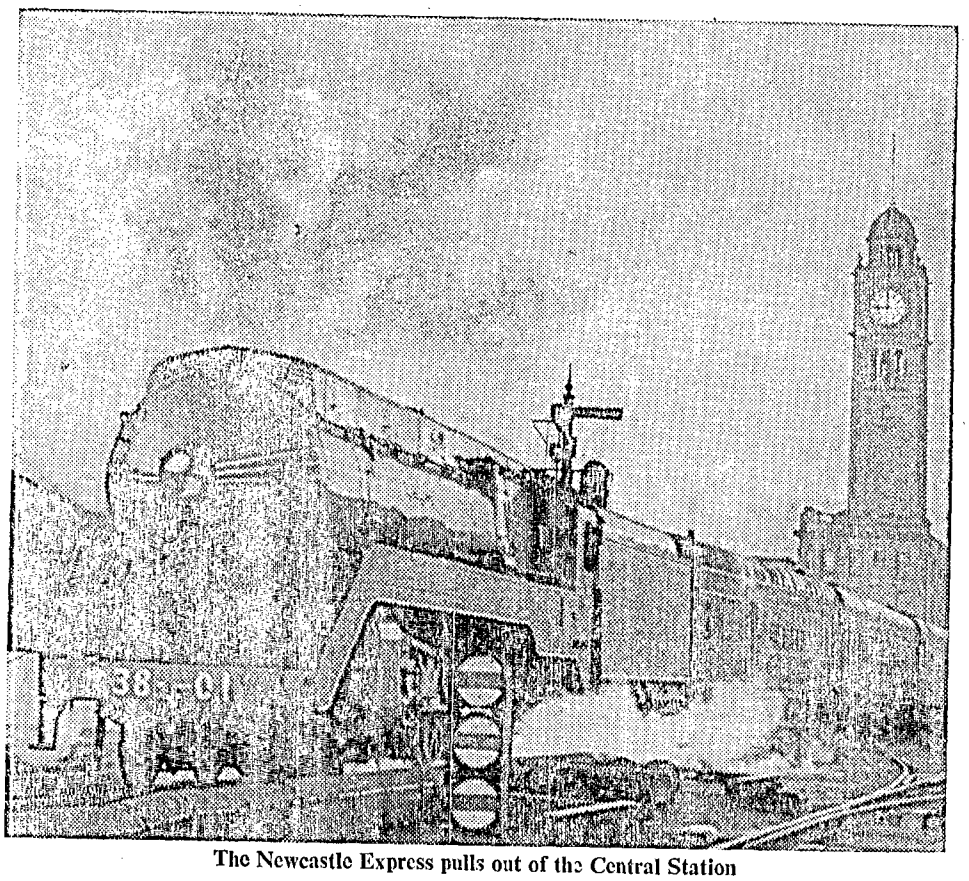
Dr. Buechner plots the location of the animals on a map, and then by comparing the maps for every month of the year, hopes to discover if there are any seasonal migrations. It is believed that at certain times of the year some of the animals are forced to leave the sanctuary of the game park in order to search for better grazing grounds.

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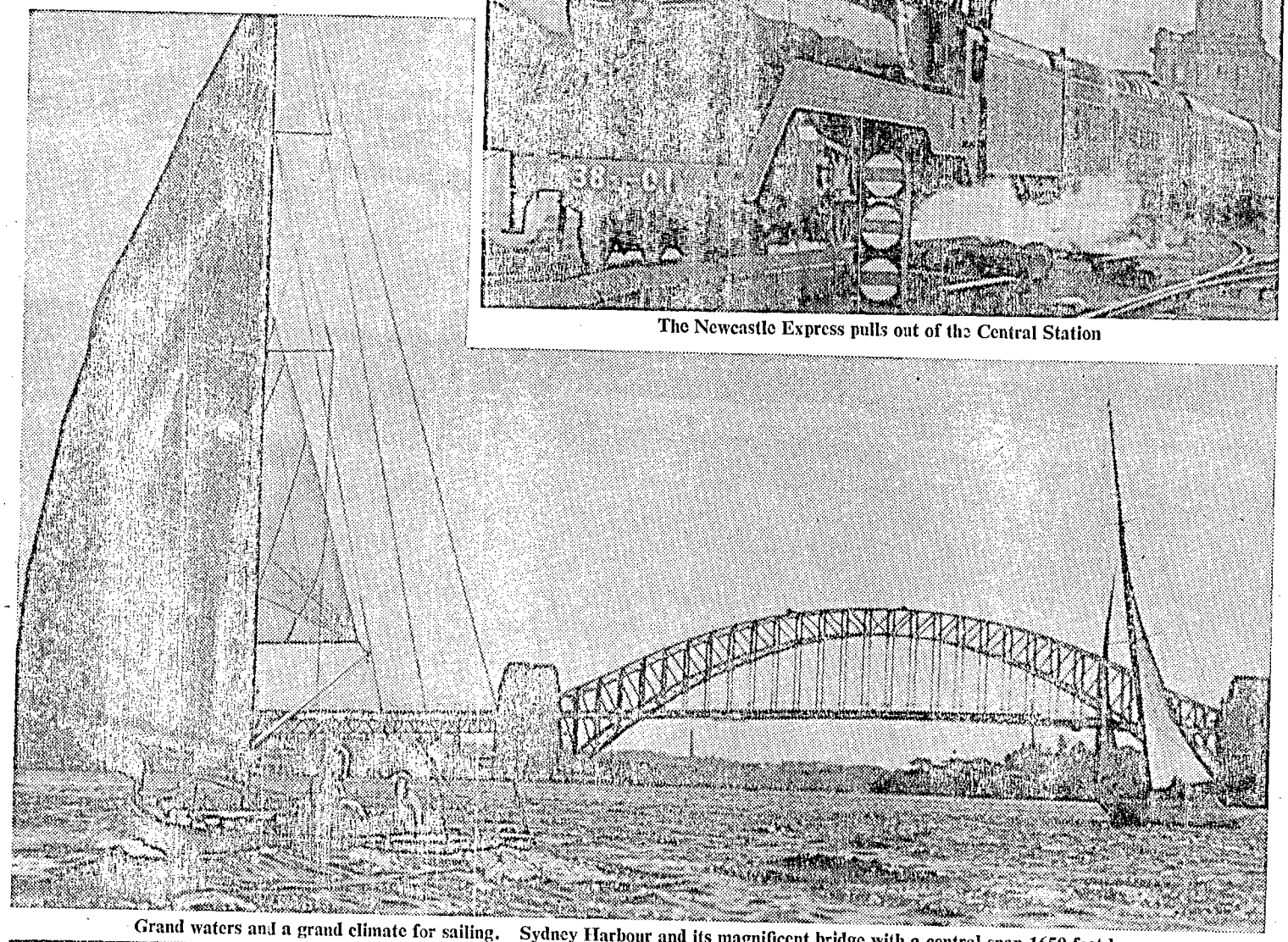
COMMONWEALTH PANORAMA—SY



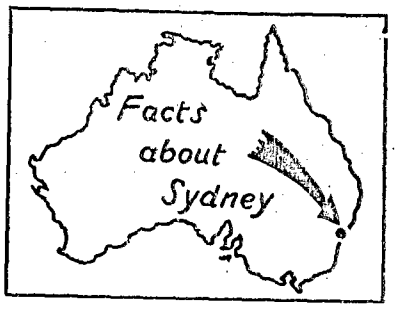
Teddy Bear—a young koala in Taronga Park Zoo



The Newcastle Express pulls out of the Central Station



Grand waters and a grand climate for sailing. Sydney Harbour and its magnificent bridge with a central span 1650 feet long



AUSTRALIA'S oldest and biggest city, Sydney has a population of nearly 2,000,000. With its suburbs it covers an area of more than 670 square miles.

ITS history began on January 26, 1788, when Captain Arthur Phillip unfurled the British flag at Sydney Cove on the south side of the harbour. He arrived with eleven ships and 1024 people. They were the first white Australians, and Captain Phillip became the first Governor of New South Wales.

SYDNEY HARBOUR runs inland for 13 miles and altogether, with its many bays and inlets, covers an area of over 20 square miles. Its shores stretch for more than 150 miles. The light at the harbour entrance is visible for 30 miles.

THE famous bridge across Sydney Harbour has a central span 1650 feet long and 170 feet above the water. With its approach spans it is 3770 feet long, and carries four railway tracks, two footpaths, and a road for six lines of traffic.

WITHIN half-an-hour's journey from Sydney are the two huge wild life sanctuaries: the Royal National Park (34,392 acres) and Kuring-gai Chase (38,263 acres).

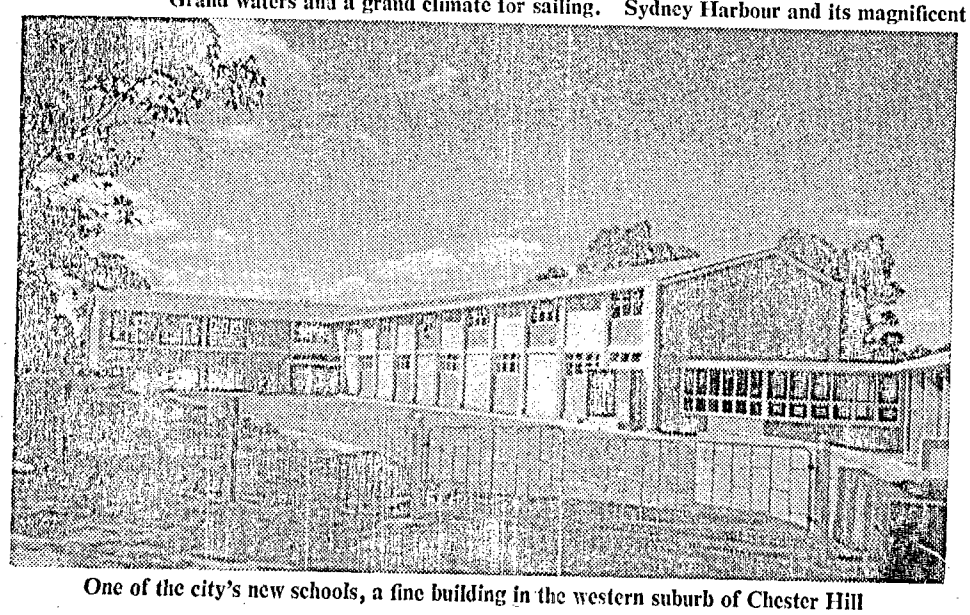
AUSTRALIA'S only underground railway is a feature of the city.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, founded in 1850, has over 7000 students. Another great institution is the Mitchell Library with the world's biggest collection of books and manuscripts on Australasia.

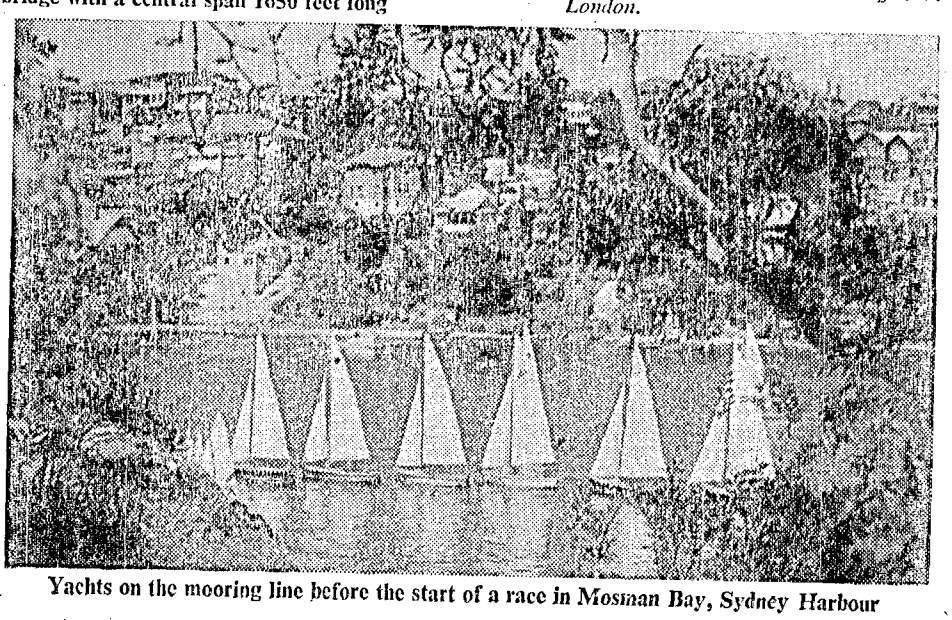
THE city has two Cathedrals—St. Andrew's (Church of England) and St. Mary's (Roman Catholic).

FOUR daily newspapers are published in Sydney, and it has nine broadcasting and three television stations.

Many of the photographs on these pages are reproduced by courtesy of the New South Wales Government office in London.



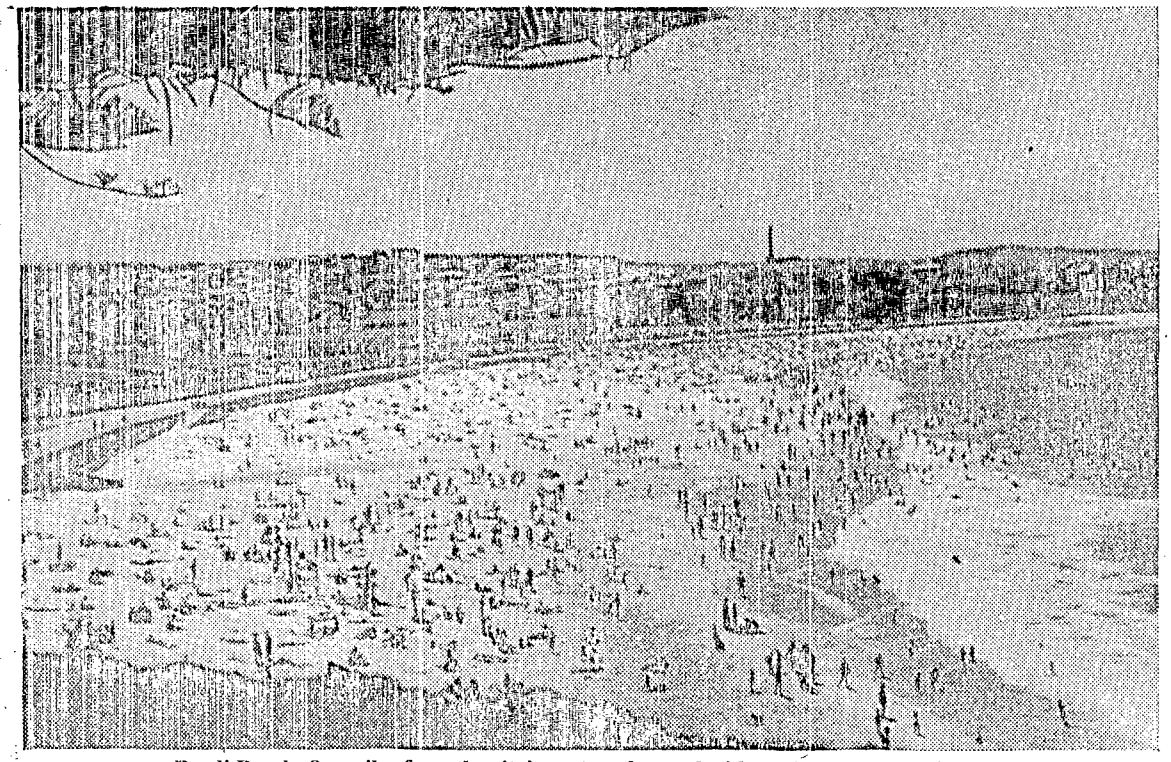
One of the city's new schools, a fine building in the western suburb of Chester Hill



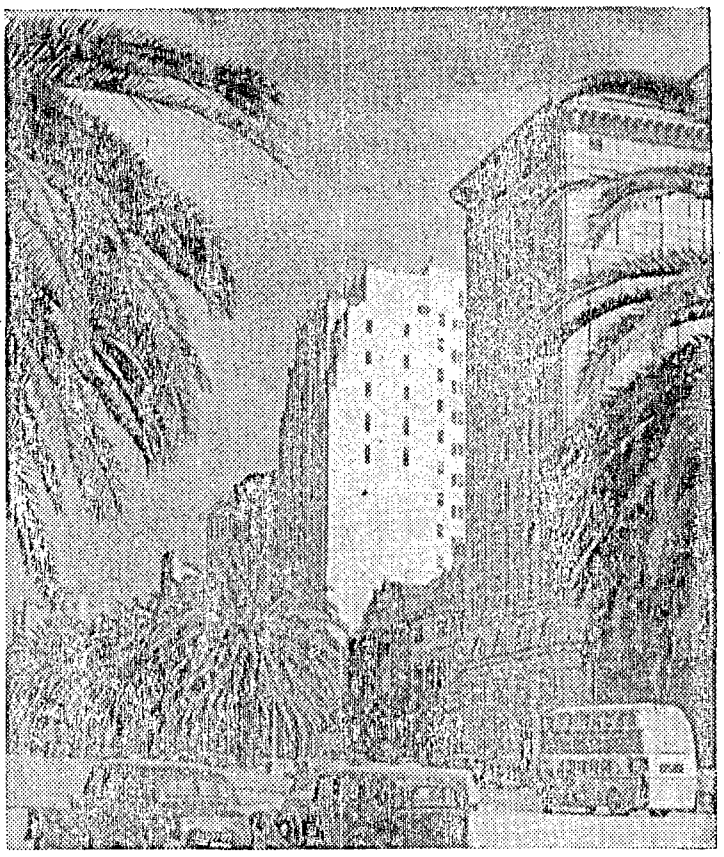
Yachts on the mooring line before the start of a race in Mosman Bay, Sydney Harbour

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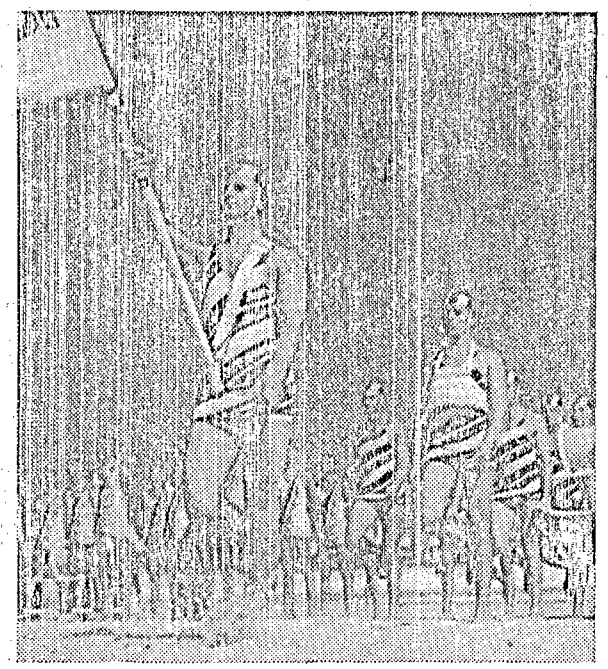
...DNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES



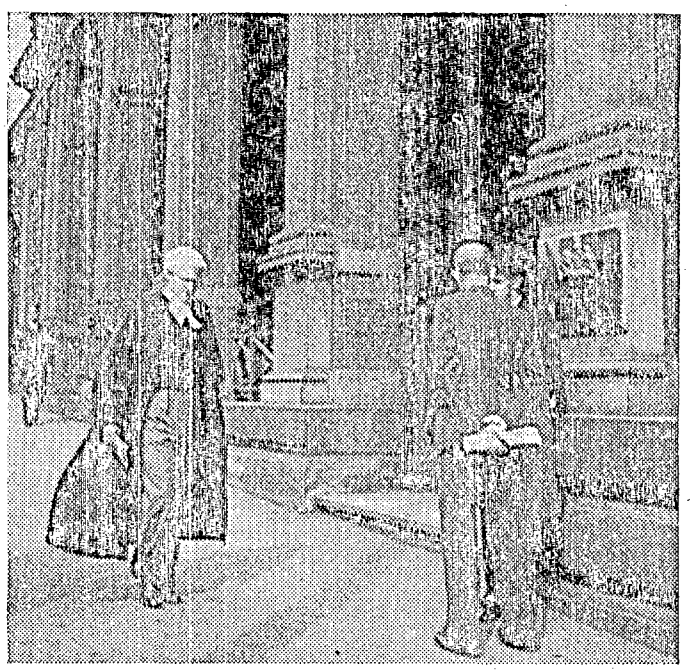
Bondi Beach, five miles from the city's centre, thronged with sun-bathers and swimmers



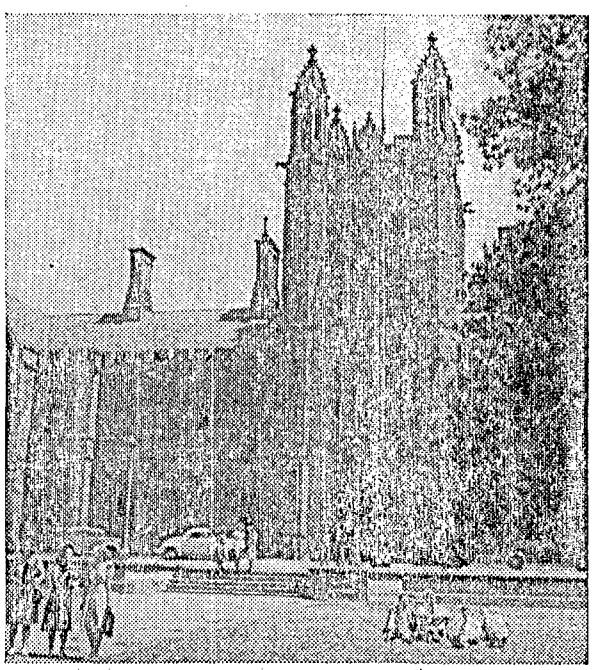
Morning sunshine in Macquarie Street, by the Botanic Gardens



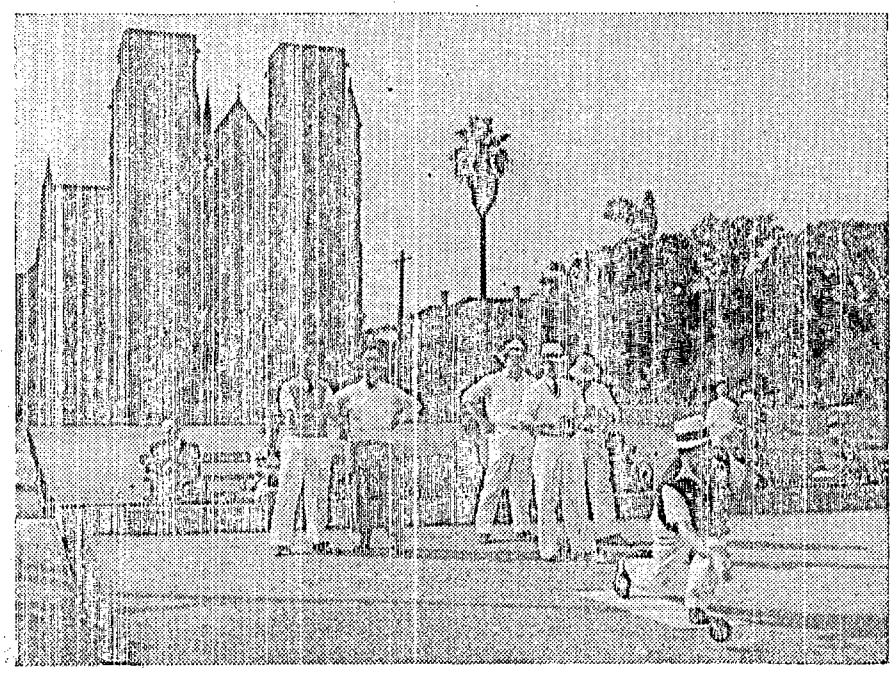
A parade of life-savers on a bathing beach



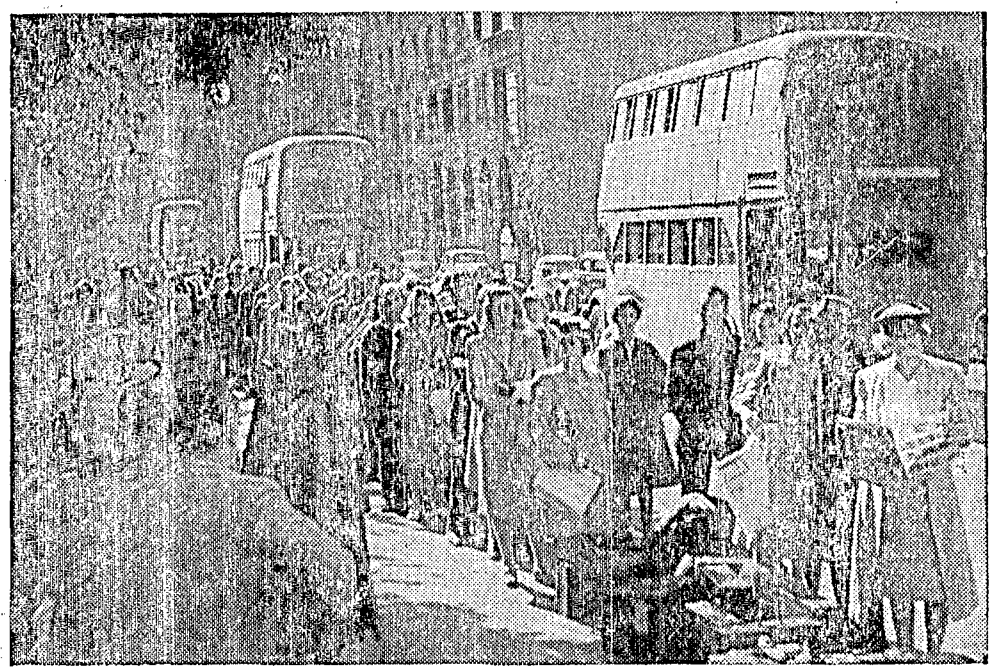
A barrister in English wig and gown, outside the Supreme Court



The Carillon Tower of Sydney's century-old University



A Sunday scene in Hyde Park, close to St. Mary's Cathedral



Rush Hour—A bus queue at Wynyard Park, near the chief City Offices

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ROUND-THE-WORLD JOURNEY FOR THE QUEEN MOTHER

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is due to leave London Airport next Tuesday morning to start on a 26,000-mile journey round the world. She will first cross the Atlantic to Montreal, and from there will fly via Vancouver, Honolulu, and Fiji to New Zealand, arriving there on February 1 for a fortnight's tour of the Dominion. It will be a happy fortnight for New Zealanders, and no less for the Queen Mother, who has not visited their country for 30 years but is greatly loved there and has expressed a wish to meet as many people as possible. It will also be a busy fortnight.

Beginning her tour at Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city, she will stay for two-and-a-half days at Government House, a large white wooden building standing in lovely grounds where hibiscus shrubs and canna lilies vie with English oaks and roses.

On February 4 the Queen Mother will fly north to Kaitaia, which was originally a Church of England missionary settlement and has a population largely composed of Maoris. From there she will fly to Hamilton, New Zealand's biggest inland city.

UNDER A VOLCANO

The next call will be at Napier, an important wool centre and holiday resort, which had to be rebuilt after a disastrous earthquake in 1931. From Napier the Queen Mother will drive to nearby Hastings, and after spending the night as guest of the owners of a big sheep station, will pay a morning visit to New Plymouth, a town at the foot of the 8260-foot-high Mount Egmont, an extinct volcano. In the afternoon she will fly to Palmerston North, another big inland town and one renowned for its beauty.

New Zealand's capital, Wellington, will welcome the Queen Mother on February 6. She is to stay there for three days—at Government House, the home of the Governor-General.

Leaving Wellington on February 10, she will fly across the Cook Strait to Blenheim, a holiday centre on the South Island's north coast, which usually holds the Dominion's sunshine record—averaging about 50 hours a week! From there she will fly some 350 miles south to Dunedin, which was originally a Scottish settlement and is now New



Zealand's fourth biggest city. While there she will make a trip to Otago Heads to see a far-famed colony of albatrosses.

Invercargill, southernmost city of New Zealand, comes next on the tour, and the Queen Mother will see a Highland Games display there before flying north to Christchurch, the Dominion's second biggest city and one often described as the most English city outside England. At Christchurch on February 14 she makes a farewell broadcast before leaving for her three-week tour of Australia.

No efforts have been spared in Australia to make the Queen Mother's visit a memorable one, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, voiced the thoughts of all his countrymen when he expressed his delight that she will be able to visit every one of the States, including Tasmania. She can be sure of a real Australian welcome everywhere on her tour, which will end at 6 p.m. on March 7. She will then start on her homeward journey in a Qantas Super Constellation.

Six hours later the plane will make a brief call at the Cocos Island Airport, and will then fly on to Mauritius, where it is due at 9 a.m. on March 8. After another brief halt, the plane will take off for Nairobi, where the Queen Mother is to open a new airport. On the morning of March 9 she will leave Nairobi for Malta.

Then, on March 10, will come the last lap of this long journey. The Queen Mother will wave farewell to Malta at 9.30 a.m., and at three o'clock in the afternoon she will step out of her plane at London Airport for a joyous reunion with her family.

STAMP COMPETITION

The Dominican Republic is running a competition for stamp collectors between the ages of ten and 16. Competitors will have to send in a short essay about the Republic's stamps, together with a collection of Dominican stamps correctly mounted with stamp hinges on standard size sheets and attractively arranged.

The first prize, worth over £30, will include a stamp album, sets of Dominican stamps, and a complete set of the Republic's coins. The second and third prizes will be stamp albums with sets of stamps and silver coins, and there will be eight other prizes of fine stamps.

All entries must be sent in by February 14 to The British Philatelic Association, 3 Berners Street, London, W.1. Winning entries will be shown at the Stamp Exhibition at the Central Hall, Westminster, from March 15 to 22.



Duet on the handbells

Mr. Edric Miles of Virginia Water, Surrey, has been an expert handbell ringer for many years; now his eleven-year-old son Alan is learning the art. Mr. Miles has a collection of more than 50 handbells, some of them over 200 years old.

London is a great place for birds

The latest report of the London Natural History Society, now in its centenary year, reveals that no fewer than 198 different species of birds were noted in 1956 within 20 miles of St. Paul's Cathedral.

With the extensive clearance of the City bombed sites the famous black redstarts became scarcer, but with the milder season more ruffs stayed for the winter on the open land at Perry Oaks sewage farm, instead of passing through as migrants. Woodlarks are also decreasing.

A census of mute swans located 188 pairs and nearly five times as many non-breeding birds, making a total of over 1300 swans. A bird-ringing station at Beddington Sewage Farm has found among its visitors an Estonian starling and a Polish black-headed gull.

Many of the wild ducks visiting London waters during hard weather come from the Netherlands and adjoining parts of the Continent rather than northern Britain. Naturally the big reservoirs are specially favoured.

The siskin is a winter visitor to Hampstead Heath and some of the parks.

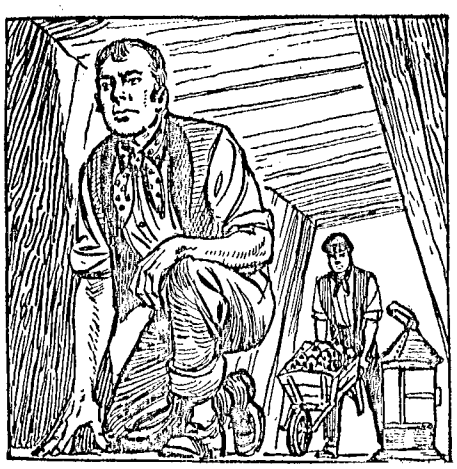
Twelve all-night "listening watches" were organised at London Airport, to find when migrating redwings were heard in greatest numbers. It was found that 70 per cent passed over between 2 and 4 a.m., 16 per cent between 5.30 and 7 a.m. and 14 per cent between 10.30 p.m. and midnight. Listeners at night have often heard the *seep*-like call of this little bird which crosses the North Sea to winter with us.

FAREWELL TO STEAM

The Dutch have said farewell to their last steam engine. At a recent ceremony it pulled into Utrecht station and was uncoupled from its train and placed in the open-air railway museum there.

The Netherlands Railways have not used steam power for passenger trains for some years, and now the whole system will work on either diesel or electric power.

FATHER OF THE LOCOMOTIVE—the amazing story of Richard Trevithick (6)



Trevithick's prospects brightened when he was engaged by the Thames Archway Company to dig a pilot tunnel under the river. The Company hoped to enlarge this, later, into a full-size tunnel, and to charge people for using it. Some progress had been made on the pilot tunnel, but the Company had dismissed their former engineer, and now offered the celebrated Cornishman £1000 if he could complete the work.



The new engineer found that lengthening the pilot tunnel was a tricky business, because water from the river kept breaking in. Some of the Company's shareholders became impatient with Trevithick's careful methods. They wanted him dismissed. One of them, who knew nothing about mining, insisted that the tunnel should at once be enlarged to full size, which Trevithick knew would be disastrous.



Digging a Thames tunnel was an operation that years later nearly baffled the great Brunel, and it was not until 1843 that the first tunnel was opened. Yet in 1808 Trevithick dug his pilot tunnel three-quarters of the way under the river. Despite all his precautions, the Thames burst in and flooded the narrow tunnel. The workmen barely escaped with their lives, and Trevithick stayed to help them out.



Trevithick had brought his wife and family to London, and on the day of the disaster Mrs. Trevithick was horrified when he returned wet through and covered in mud. His 1028-foot tunnel was filled with water and sand, yet he was still hopeful of success, and began making plans for pumping out the water. But his enemies made the most of this misfortune, and accused him to the Lord Mayor of damaging the river bed.

Will Trevithick be allowed to continue operations on the tunnel? See next week's instalment

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A grand new Lone Pine Story

SECRET OF THE GORGE

By Malcolm Saville

1. The stranger

It was nearly noon when the bus from Ludlow rounded the corner of the main street of the village of Bringewood Chase. The August sun blazed down from a clear blue sky and under the arches of the old stone bridge the waters of the River Teme trickled sluggishly. There had been no rain for a fortnight and day by day the level of the water had sunk until now the stones of its bed gleamed white and smooth in the sunshine.

The bus stopped under the shade of the elm trees by the bridge. The driver switched off the engine, climbed down from his seat, and sat on the grass. The conductor nodded to the three passengers who got off; then he joined his mate.

One of the passengers who alighted was a man. He was tall and spare with stooping shoulders and was most unsuitably dressed for a hot day in a suit of brown tweeds and a cap to match. His face was lined and tanned and he wore a pair of old-fashioned steel-rimmed spectacles.

Out of place

The stranger, carrying a heavy canvas grip, stepped carefully down from the bus and looked round curiously. He glanced at the bus crew as if to ask a question, decided against doing so, walked stiffly across to the bridge, and leaned over the parapet.

In the meadow across the river young Hereford cattle grazed. A row of willows on the bank drooped lazily towards the water and away in the hazy distance were the blue Welsh hills. It was a pleasant scene in this border village between Hereford and Shropshire, but the man on the bridge looked completely out of place.

The few who passed that way with only a quick curious glance at the strange figure would have been greatly surprised had they known who he was and what thoughts raced through his mind. As it was, he remained on the bridge for some time; then, deciding at last that he was beginning to draw too much attention, he turned and lifted his heavy bag.

At this moment there came the sound of an approaching Land-Rover. It was coming towards the village at a fairly fast pace, but it did begin to slow up near the bridge. The man in the brown tweeds had left the parapet over which he had been leaning and walked into the middle of the road. Either he was very absent-minded or he misjudged the speed of the oncoming vehicle, for there came a vicious squealing of brakes, a loud shout, and the stranger was forced to leap back for his life.

How the driver of the Land-Rover avoided disaster was something no one would ever know. But he did. With skill and great presence of mind, he brought his swaying, skidding machine to rest not an inch from the parapet of the bridge and no one was hurt.

"You ought to be locked up," came a loud, angry voice, and the driver swung out of his seat on to the road. He left behind in the Land-Rover a boy of sixteen who was struggling to get up from the floor on to which he had been thrown.

The man in tweeds stood white and shaken. He made no reply as the driver roared, "You nearly had us both killed," which was by no means an understatement.

"I'm sorry." The stranger's voice was harsh. "I have been away from here so long. I cannot get used . . ." He stopped almost as though he had said too much and regretted it.

The driver of the Land-Rover relented.

"Well, if it's like that I understand," he said, taking in the man's tweeds, his tanned face and the voice with the Colonial twang. "You lived about here, I suppose—been abroad and just come back to the old homestead, eh?"

Odd manner

He gave a loud, echoing laugh, but the effect of that remark on the man was quite extraordinary. One moment he was a confused, white-faced stranger, the next he looked hard and bitter with eyes that glinted strangely. He bent quickly and picked up his heavy bag.

"I've never been here in my life before," he snarled. Then he walked rapidly past the Land-Rover in which the boy sat staring, and went on into the village.

The driver looked puzzled. He scratched the back of his head, gave a shrug and then turned to the boy.

"Well, Tom, takes a lot to surprise your Uncle Alf, but that fellow's got me speechless. Don't know how I avoided him. You all right, lad? Not hurt, are you?"

Tom Ingles laughed. It would have taken more than that jolting to upset him.

"I'm all right, Uncle," he assured Mr. Ingles, who was now climbing back into the Land-Rover. "Queer chap, though. What do you make of him?"

"Nearly made jelly of him if you ask me," roared Uncle Alf and devoted his attention to the task of getting his car away from the parapet.

Tom looked back over his shoulder at the fast receding figure of the stranger. He was puzzled. There was something queer about the man he could not understand. Strange thoughts ran through his mind, not fanciful ones born of an imaginative mind, for no one could ever accuse Tom Ingles of being that kind of a boy. He was in fact the solid, reliable type who arrived at conclusions the hard way.



There was a vicious squealing of brakes and the stranger was forced to leap for his life

Off again

The loud roar of an engine, and the clash of gears, announced that Uncle Alf Ingles and the Land-Rover were working in unison. Tom held on to his seat and allowed himself to be rocked backwards and forwards with the movement of the vehicle. His mind was still on the stranger and he wished he had been able to get a closer look at the man, but during most of the encounter he had been getting up from the floor of the Land-Rover and everything had happened so quickly. The fleeting glimpse of the tall, thin figure was not enough to give him a clear impression, but those queer words of his still echoed in Tom's mind.

With half a grin he decided to store the incident away in his mind and to be sure to tell Jenny about it when next he saw her. Jenny Harman, the incurable romantic, was probably his closest friend of all the Lone Pine Club members, and would be sure to appreciate his story. Thus his mind ran on as the Land-Rover jerked backwards until Mr. Ingles said:

"Better not tell your aunt about this," as they moved forward on their way across the bridge. "You know how she worries—and no damage has been done, anyway."

Tom knew that his aunt was very much concerned about Uncle Alf's fast driving, but he did not want to worry her with news of this incident. He nodded his head in agreement.

"It's been a good morning," Uncle Alf continued to shout as he settled down to the drive back to Ingles Farm. "Bit of a waste some might say, but that tractor we went after might have been a bargain."

Tractor for sale

Tom agreed. It had been a good morning, for he liked nothing better than these unexpected runs out with his uncle. They had heard of a tractor for sale at a farm beyond Bringewood Chase and even if it had been a long run without results, he enjoyed the excursion. It was a change from the routine of Ingles Farm.

The Land-Rover ran on through the pleasant countryside, and Tom soon forgot the incident at the bridge at Bringewood Chase. He was not then to know, however, how soon he was to meet the man in tweeds again and in what strange circumstances. At the moment he was content to listen to the pleasant chatter of his uncle sitting beside him.

Clearing his mind

Back at the village they had left, the subject of Tom's recent puzzled thoughts was standing in a narrow road which led off the main street.

It had taken the man best part of an hour, and a wander round the village, to clear the turmoil in his mind. The event on the bridge had unnerved him. Now, as he stood in that narrow turning, he felt more sure of himself.

"I mustn't let that happen again," he muttered, thinking of the slip he had made. Still, the man and the boy in the Land-Rover might easily be strangers to the district and he was not likely to meet them again. In any case, they had probably forgotten him already.

Peeling paint

He was now standing outside a shabby little inn, looking up with puzzled speculation at the grubby and badly painted sign. Eventually he realised that what he had first believed to be two pears were really two bells and by that he knew the name of the tavern.

The paint was peeling from the open door and the stone step was dirty, but all this did not deter the stranger from moving forward towards the doorway after a hurried glance up and down the street. He looked up at the landlord's name painted over the door, nodded as if satisfied, and stepped over the threshold into a stone-flagged passage.

"This place will do," he muttered. "It will have to do, but thank goodness it may be only for a few days. A few days—I've got a lot to do in that time and then this wretched little village won't see me again!"

To be continued

THE LONE PINE CLUB

THE Lone Pine Club was founded at a secret headquarters in the Shropshire Hills. Here are the members you will meet in this new story:

DAVID MORTON. Aged 16. Captain of the Club. Goes to boarding school. Lives in London. His family own Witchend, an old Shropshire farmhouse, and try to go there every holiday.

DICKIE and MARY MORTON. Ten-year-old twins. Loyal, warm-hearted, courageous and not nearly so silly as they sometimes pretend to be.

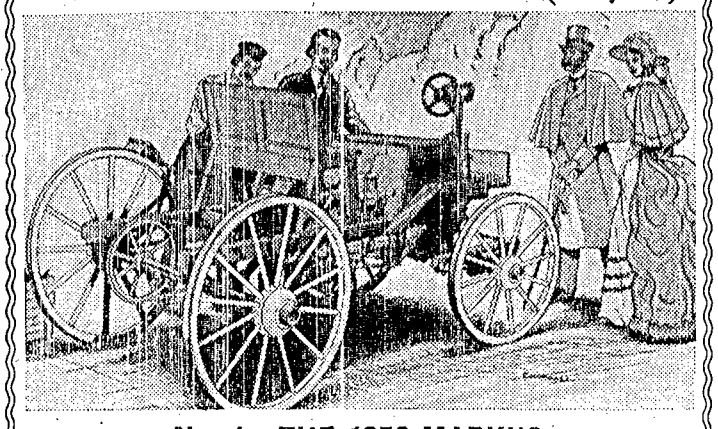
PETRONELLA (PETER) STERLING. Aged 16. Vice-Captain of Club. No mother, brothers, or sisters. Goes to school in Shrewsbury and lives with her father who is in charge of a reservoir in the Shropshire Hills. Rides and swims better than most boys.

JENNY HARMAN. Aged 15. Lives in village of Barton Beach, about 12 miles from Witchend. Her father keeps General Store and Post Office and she goes to school in nearest town.

TOM INGLES. Aged 16. A Londoner who works on his uncle's farm near Witchend. Pretends he is too old for the Club but enjoys their adventures when he can.

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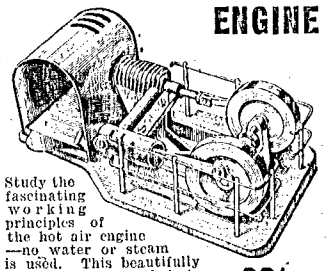
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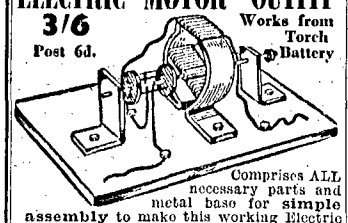
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LOOKING AT THE SKY

VISIBLE FRAGMENT OF A SHATTERED WORLD

A VERY good opportunity occurs now for finding a rarely-seen little world. This is Ceres, one of the myriad of small planetoids which appear to be portions of a great world which existed long ages ago, but met with disaster and was smashed into thousands of pieces.

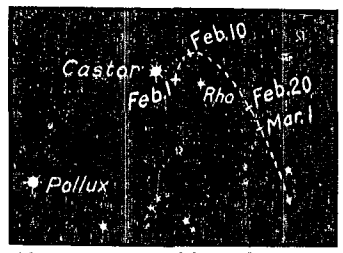
Ceres is the biggest known remaining piece of this vanished planet that existed between Mars and Jupiter. Though it is invisible to the naked eye, Ceres may be perceived with but little magnification. Binoculars are quite sufficient if the night be dark and clear, and the observer knows just where to look. This happens to be quite easy at the present time, for Ceres appears to be passing very close to the bright star Castor in the constellation of Gemini, the Twins.

TWINS NOT IDENTICAL

The path of Ceres is indicated on the accompanying star-map, which shows also the situation of Pollux, the other Twin. Actually these stars have nothing whatever in common with each other, Pollux being a solitary sun about 32 light-years distant; whereas Castor is a vast solar system of six suns at a distance averaging between 42 and 43 light-years.

At present these two bright stars may be readily recognised high in the south-east during mid-evening, though they veer round to the south of overhead by about 10 p.m. It will therefore be a very easy matter to find out just where Ceres is. Just now, moonlight will be a disadvantage for spotting such a faint object, but with a dark, star-lit sky Ceres may be seen in the same field-of-view of the binoculars with Castor for the next three to four weeks.

During this time, it will be seen from the map that Ceres will *appear* to travel round the fourth-magnitude star Rho. This star, being easily seen, will thus prove a sort of "celestial buoy" to enable the eye of the observer to follow the progress of Ceres; the map shows its calculated position on the dates indicated.



The present position of Ceres, shown by a cross, and its path at successive dates.

The curve shown is due to perspective, for Ceres has now begun to recede from the Earth, and will thus begin to diminish in brightness and eventually become only a telescopic object.

Binoculars will show several stars fainter than those shown on the star-map. The problem as to which one is Ceres may be soon solved by noting the precise position of each one in the locality. The one that moves will be Ceres. This movement may be detected in three or four days.

This little world, only 477 miles in diameter, is actually about 160 million miles distant. Though the largest of at least 2500 portions of that destroyed planet which are known, Ceres is not the brightest of them; Vesta, with a much smaller diameter, often appears bright enough to be seen with the unaided eye; this is accounted for by believing it to be composed of a whiter kind of rock.

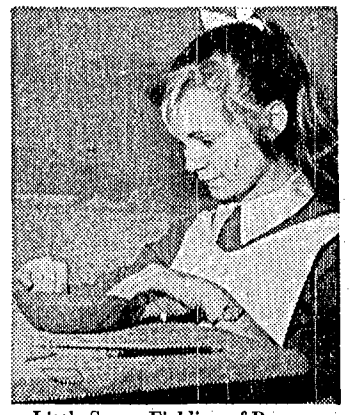
It has been calculated that between 40,000 and 50,000 of these fragments of this smashed or exploded world exist, thousands being known, named, or numbered. So far have some of them been hurled or flung in space, that a few have passed near the Earth and even Venus.

MOUNTAINS IN SPACE

Most of these fragments are merely great lumps of rock resembling mountains whirling through space, but in definite orbits. A large number of these orbits with their variations have been traced back until they all meet at practically the same point, thus confirming the theory that all these planetoids are the fragments of a destroyed planet.

G. F. M.

At the pottery class



Little Susan Fielding of Barnes, Surrey, making a bowl during one of the Children's Classes which are held at the Richmond Pottery on Saturday mornings.

Water for the Golden Mile

The jubilee of a great engineering feat is being celebrated at a ceremony in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, this month.

Stretching across 350 miles of uninhabited country in the south-western corner of the southern continent lies a water pipeline which is permanent testimony to the skill and foresight of the brilliant engineer who designed it.

Fifty years ago the Premier of Western Australia turned on a tap in Kalgoorlie and water flowed for the first time through 350 miles of pipeline from Perth. It had passed through eight pumping stations and risen 1600 feet. Today the pipeline provides a reminder of the early days of this gold-mining town.

At the turn of the century Kalgoorlie was without fresh water for ten years, and the mining of its gold was almost an impossibility. The bringing of water changed all this, and up to the present time gold worth £160,000,000 has been taken from its fabulous Golden Mile, a reef studded with mines.

When gold was first discovered, there was no surface water because Kalgoorlie is in the centre of a plain which is always dry, the annual rainfall rarely exceeding five inches. In the early days bores were put down, but the water from them was salty and useless. When diggers flocked to the goldfields in their thousands, disease broke out through lack of water.

Then Charles O'Connor, who had built Fremantle Harbour, worked out his plan. Water was to be collected in a large dam at Mundaring, near the Darling Ranges 20 miles east of Perth. Eight pumping stations were erected and the pipeline laid.

The project took five years to complete and has remained in service with little maintenance ever since.



Quokkas from Rottnest Island

New arrivals at the London Zoo are these quokkas, or short-tailed wallabies, first to be seen there since 1931. They come from Rottnest Island, near Perth in Western Australia.

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PUZZLE PARADE

SAME SOUND

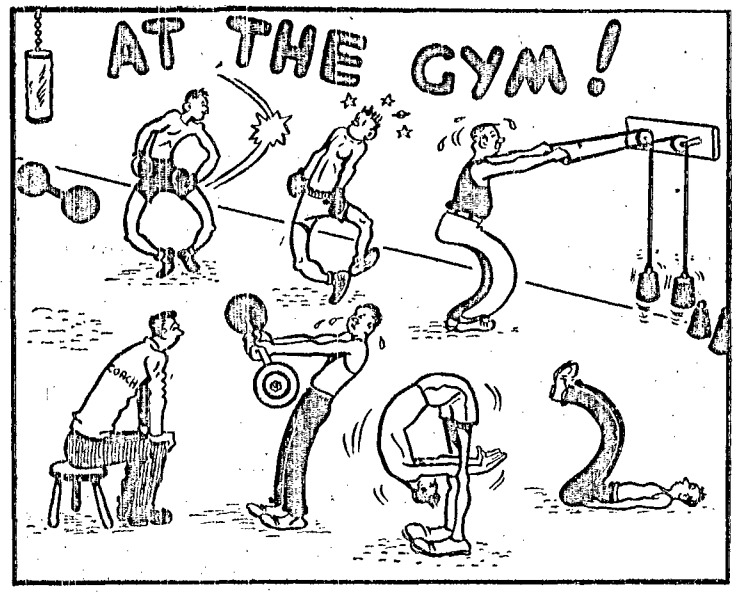
At the fair we are having such fun,
As we go down the . . . one by one.
At the rifle range young Molly cries,
" . . . straight, Daddy, and win me a prize!"

CUR-IOUS

Each of the words suggested here begins with CUR. Can you find them all?

Clerical cur; milky cur; inquisitive cur; spiral cur; bird cur; fruit cur; sauce cur; abrupt cur; electrical cur.

STRANGE FIGURES IN THE GYM



At first glance these appear to be the strange positions assumed by men exercising in the gym. But if you examine them more closely you will see that each forms a figure. When you have found the figures add them together.

WHAT AM I ?

My first is in feather, but not in cap;
My second's in water, but not in tap;
My third's in table, but not in chair;
My fourth is in honest, but not in fair;
My fifth is in travel, but not in walk;
My sixth is in gossip, but not in talk;
My seventh's in pasture, but not in green;
My eighth is in parsnip, but not in bean;
My ninth is in cloudy, but not in wet;
My tenth is in rented, but not in let.
My whole is something that can be seen
In spite of being behind a screen.

BUNCH OF FLOWERS

Can you rearrange the letters to find the names of six flowers?

One name; love it; tears; a wee pest; in a grade; thy china.

DOUBLE CHANGE

First of all, I'm rather chilly;
Change my head, folk say I'm silly.
But changed again it's plain to see,
That an implement I could be.

NUMBER PUZZLE

Can you, with the aid of the clues below, find the name of an eight-lettered flower which is now growing in the English countryside?

You can have fun with 1234.
Peas are found in 8751.
You can 674 on the river.

LETTER QUIZ

The answers to these clues consist of only two letters.

1. Covetousness.
2. A frozen pond.
3. Age of an old man.
4. A written composition.
5. What ambitious scholars try to do.

QUEER ARITHMETIC

Twice ten are six of us,
Six are but three of us,
Nine are but four of us,
What can we possibly be?
Would you know more of us,
Twelve are but six of us,
Five are but four, do you see?

GUESS THE OBJECTS

All these clues are answered by the names of household objects. And they all begin with st . . .

1. I'm very useful, to be sure.
I have three legs and sometimes four.
2. When climbing on me, do take care—
Don't use the one that isn't there!
3. When cut up, I'm not sad at all,
Because I'm used by one and all.
4. You push me in with ease, no doubt,
But sometimes cannot get me out.
5. I separate and keep things fine;
It is in cooking that I shine.

TEA-TIME

Can you change TEA into HOT in four steps, changing one letter at a time and forming a proper word at each step?

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Same sound. Chute; shoot.
What am I? Television.
Strange figures in the Gym. 8, 6, 5, 4, 7, 9, 2; total 41.
Bunch of flowers. Anemone, violet, aster, sweet pea, gardenia, hyacinth.
Double change. Cool; fool; tool.
CUR-ious. Curate; curd; curious; curl; curlew; currant; curry; curt; current.
Letter quiz. NV (envy); IC (icy); AT (eighty); SA (essay); XL (excel).
Queer arithmetic. Letters of the alphabet—Twenty = six letters; six = three letters; nine = four letters; twelve = six letters; five = four letters.
Guess the objects. Stool; steps; string; stopper; strainer.
Tea-time. Tea, pea, pet, pot, hot.
Number puzzle. Snowdrop.

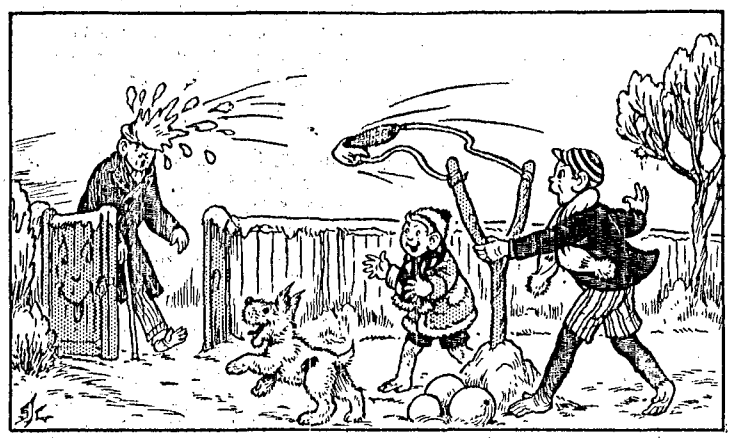
LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

R	U	G	■	M	U	R	A	L
O	■	A	W	E	■	E	R	A
E	E	R	■	S	E	E	K	S
■	A	B	U	S	E	D	■	T
P	T	■	N	■	L	■	O	S
O	■	M	I	S	S	E	D	■
S	T	A	T	E	■	A	D	D
T	A	R	■	T	O	R	■	U
S	P	E	N	T	■	S	A	D

JUST A FEW WORDS

1. B Pertinent means appropriate and to the point. (From Latin *pertinere*—to belong.)
2. A A dilemma is a position which leaves only a choice between evils. (From the Greek words—*di-*, double, and *lemma*, an assumption.)
3. A Tardy means slow, or late. (From French *tardif* and Latin *tardus*, slow.)
4. C Eloquence is the art of fine speaking. (From Latin *eloquens*, well speaking.)
5. A To disintegrate is to break up; to crumble. (From Latin *dis-*, not, and *integer*, untouched, a whole.)
6. B Reprehensible means blameworthy. (From Latin *reprehendere*, to find fault with.)

JACKO HITS A MOVING TARGET



Jacko had grown tired of throwing snowballs. "It makes me go all hot and cold," he grumbled. Then he had one of those "brilliant ideas," which he said came naturally to him! In the garden he set up a forked branch from a tree which Adolphus had pruned some months before. Then he used some old braces to make a catapult. Drawing a funny face on the garden gate, Jacko prepared to "hit the target every time." His first snowball flew in the right direction—but hit the wrong target. Poor Adolphus had chosen the wrong moment to reach the gate! Jacko did not wait to explain.

JUST A FEW WORDS

Here is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but, in each case, only one is correct and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in italics. To answer five or six correctly is very good.

(Answers are given in column 3)

1. She asked a *pertinent* question.
A—Rude.
B—To the point.
C—Unexpected.

2. I was in a *dilemma*.
A—Faced with a difficult choice.
B—Suffering from a painful ailment.
C—An untidy muddle.

3. You are certainly *tardy*.
A—Late.
B—Dirty.
C—Sleepy.

4. We all admire her *eloquence*.
A—Good manners.
B—Smartness of dress.
C—A moving speech.

5. The old road is *disintegrating*.
A—Crumbling to pieces.
B—A round-about route.
C—Uninteresting scenery.

6. What you did was *reprehensible*.
A—Understandable.
B—Much to be blamed.
C—Praiseworthy.

LUCKY DIP

SAY THIS QUICKLY

Can cats catch colds quicker than cattle?
If they're careless cats, of course cats can.

MILES OF CARPET

One of the world's greatest hotels is approaching completion in Montreal, Canada. Built by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and named the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, it will open in the spring.

Altogether 36 miles of carpets have been ordered for the hotel from Canadian textile mills, and the cost of covering the 21 floors alone will exceed £150,000.

A third of the carpet will be laid in the hotel's 1200 bedrooms, about 20 miles of it in the corridors, and the remainder will go into dining-rooms and assembly halls.

BARE SKIN

A sailor who hailed from the west
Had a fur skin tattooed on his chest.
When asked to state why,
He would make the reply,
"In cold weather I don't need a vest."

OTHER WORLDS

In the evening no planets are visible. In the morning Mars and Saturn are low in the south-east, and Jupiter is in the south. Our picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at six o'clock in the evening of Friday, January 24.



TO BE EXPECTED

A merry old shepherd from Sutton
Would speak very highly of mutton.
He would frequently talk
On the merit of pork,
But for beef he did not care a button.

DRAWKCAB REDAER

Little Johnny came home very excited, yet rather puzzled.

"The class is being split into two parts, Mummie," he said. "One part is for backward readers, but I don't know who will be in it. So far as I know, nobody in the class can read backwards."

BEDTIME TALE

BILLY ENJOYS THE SNOW

"Hurray, snow at last," cried Billy one morning when he woke up to find a thick white covering everywhere. He hurriedly dressed and ate his breakfast, then dashed next door to get Paul. Within a few minutes they were having a grand old snowball fight.

They had just paused for breath when Billy's Daddy opened a window and called to them: "I say, you two, what about using some of that energy clearing the snow from the path before it gets trodden flat and hard?"

The boys needed no urging and armed with broom and spade they soon had the snow off the path and banked on one side.

Just then Paul's Daddy came out on his way to work. "That's a good idea, lads. What about doing this path now?"

Once again the two boys set to work and they had nearly finished when they heard Jean calling from her house across the road. Still carrying the broom and spade, Billy and Paul went across to speak to her. As they stood talking Jean's Mummy saw them.

"Oh, you've come to clear the snow off the path," she said. "What a kindly thought. Thank you very much."

Billy and Paul looked at each other—then got busy with the broom and shovel, but much slower this time, for Jean's path was very wide and very long.

When they had finished they wasted no time in getting back to Billy's house to put the broom and shovel away, and they were just passing the back door when Mummy saw them. "I shouldn't bother to sweep the back path," she said. "You go off and play."

"No fear," said Billy. "We're coming indoors for a rest—we're tired out."

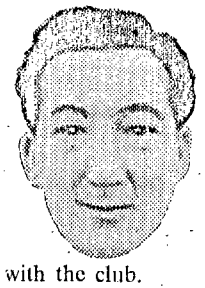
"Well I never," exclaimed Mummy. "Fancy two strong boys like you being tired out after sweeping one little path!"

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PRINCE ON THE SOCCER FIELD

Corinthian Casuals, one of the oldest of our amateur soccer teams, now have a Malayan prince playing in their first team. He is Tunku Ahmed Yahaya or, as he prefers to be known in this country, Ronnie Hamid.

Ronnie's father used to make frequent business trips to England and during one of them he put his son into a prep school. There Ronnie made friends with the son of the secretary of the Athenian League club, Hitchin Town, and at 16 he was playing with the club.



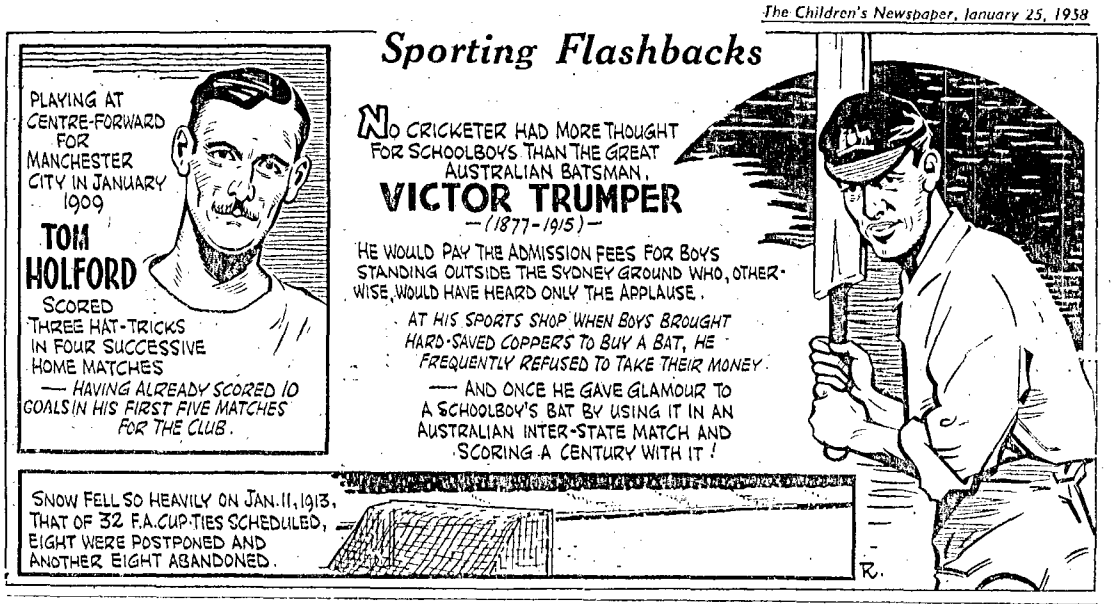
From the prep school he moved to Marylebone Grammar School and Bristol University. He studied economics and gained a B.A. degree with honours. Now at his Putney home he is taking an International Accountancy course. He has passed his Intermediate already.

Two years ago, he represented the Combined English Universities at soccer. Now, after a spell in the reserves, the 27-year-old prince is a regular member of the Corinthian Casuals club. He plays alongside such well-known sportsmen as International Ralph Cowan, Test cricketer Doug Insole, and Surrey batsman Mike Willett.

His real name will soon be in more frequent use again, for in June he returns to Malaya to stay. His uncle, Tunku Abdul Rahman is the Sultan of Kedah, a State of about a million people. His other uncle is the Chief Minister.

At home, where he intends to work in the Treasury, he will doubtless find many willing ears to listen to his stories of treading the hallowed turf of the Oval cricket ground to play soccer!

Sporting Flashbacks



Ready for the third Test

South Africa and Australia meet for the third Test Match at Durban, starting on Friday. The Australians lead at the moment, having drawn the first Test and won the second. The corresponding Test at Durban during the Australians' previous tour, in 1950, provided many thrills. The tourists were put out for 75 in their first innings, due mainly to the bowling of Hugh Tayfield, playing in only his third Test Match, who took seven wickets for 23 runs. But in Australia's second innings young Neil Harvey scored 151 not out in a marathon innings of 5½ hours, and enabled his side to win with half an hour to spare.

Ray Lindwall, who played in that last Durban Test, is spending the winter at home, captaining Queensland. Recently he set up a new record for fast bowlers in this class of cricket when, in his 54th Sheffield Shield match, he took his 211th wicket. This total may not appear very large in comparison with English cricket, but Australian State sides play only seven or eight matches a year.

Ray Lindwall's Queensland colleague, wicket-keeper Wally Grout, also set up a record recently. In the first Test in South Africa he held six catches, beating the previous best of five catches, by Australians Gil Langley (1955) and Bertie Oldfield (1925). Wally was playing in his first Test.

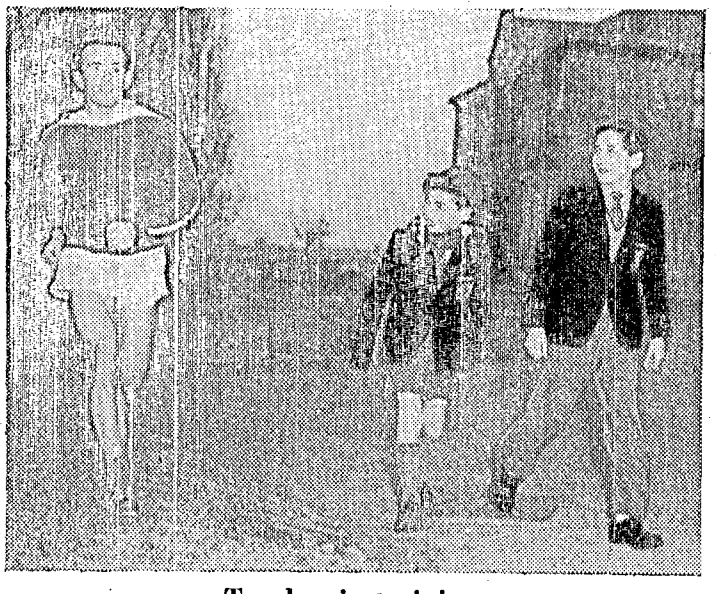
While the Australians and South Africans are batting out their Test Match at Durban, the Pakistan tourists will be in Trinidad, playing two matches in preparation for the second Test of their series with the West Indies.

Hanif Mohammad, the young Pakistan batsman, will return direct from the West Indies to play as professional for Crompton in next season's Central Lancashire League matches.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Which overseas cricket team is to tour England this summer?
2. What is a birdie in golf?
3. How many teams are there in the First Division of the Football League?
4. What is the difference between a free kick and an indirect free kick in soccer?
5. Who was the first man to run a mile in less than four minutes?
6. In what sport do you tack?

1. New Zealand. 2. Holing in one under par. 3. Twenty-two. 4. With a free kick, a player may shoot straight into goal; with an indirect free kick, the ball must touch another player. 5. Roger Bannister. 6. Yachting.



Teacher in training

Tony Weeks-Pearson of Blackheath Harriers is one of our most promising marathon runners. As part of his training he runs the nine miles from his home to Gillingham Grammar School, where he is a teacher. Later he runs home.

American Athlete of the Year

Bobby Morrow, of Texas, who won three gold medals at the last Olympics, has been awarded the James E. Sullivan Memorial Trophy as America's outstanding athlete of 1957. At Melbourne he won the 100 metres; the 200 metres (in a world record time of 20.6 seconds); and was in the winning 4 × 100 metres relay team.

Two other American Olympic gold medalists—Bob Richards (pole vault), and Milt Campbell (decathlon)—have decided to turn professional. Richards is to present a TV sports programme, while Campbell is to play football for the Cleveland team.

Cross-country

Teams from England, France, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, and Spain will compete in the international cross-country race at San Sebastian on Sunday. The English trio of George Knight, Alan Perkins, and Brian Heatley, will find stern opposition, for among the runners will be Emil Zatopek and Olympic Marathon champion Alain Mimoun.

Swimmers in the news

Judy Grinham, Britain's Olympic back-stroke swimming champion, and now one of our leading free-stylers, will be flying to South Africa this weekend for a three-week tour of the principal towns. As well as giving demonstrations, she will probably swim in the South African championships. It was hoped at one time that Judy Grinham would be accompanied by Diana Wilkinson and Margaret Edwards, but this was not possible.

Incidentally, 13-year-old Diana Wilkinson has been rewarded for her wonderful spell of record-breaking in 1957 with three honours. The Stockport schoolgirl was voted "Sportswoman of the Year" in a national ballot; the "Sports Girl of 1957" in another ballot; and was awarded the junior Sportsview Personality Trophy by the BBC. Proud as she is of her success, Diana Wilkinson's greatest ambition is to win an Empire Games title later this summer.

Oddly enough, only a few days before she received her awards, Diana had two of her records taken away from her. Elspeth Ferguson, the York free-style swimmer, clipped three-fifths of a second from Diana's British native and English senior 220 yards records.



Elspeth Ferguson

Another young swimmer in the news is Ilsa Konrads, the 13-year-old Australian girl who was born in Latvia. A few weeks ago she became the second swimmer in the world to cover 440 yards in under five minutes. A few days later she broke the women's world records for the 880 yards and 800 metres free-style. Both these records were held by fellow-Australian Lorraine Crapp.

SPORT IN RUSSIA

We are used to hearing of grand-scale developments in Russia, and three items in the Soviet News indicate that their plans for developing the country's sporting amenities are no less grand.

It was recently announced, for instance, that in the newly-opened water sports palace in Moscow more than 2000 swimmers can train every day. It has five indoor pools, three of them 25 metres long and two 50 metres long.

Moscow is also proud of the facilities for winter sports it offers to its inhabitants. This season 80 ski-ing centres have been opened round the city, where 30,000 pairs of skis are available on loan. In the city itself there are 50 stadiums for ice-hockey matches as well as over 16 million square feet of ice-skating rinks.

Athletics, too, are becoming more and more popular and it is estimated that every year twelve million athletes take part in competitions.

Looking ahead to the summer, it seems that we can expect to see Russian tennis players taking part in tournaments in this country. Not long ago the Russian L.T.A. stated that they would send a party of players to Wimbledon, and at the same time they inquired about tournaments on grass prior to the Wimbledon fortnight. Owing to climatic conditions, there are few grass courts in Russia, and if the Soviet players are to achieve any success they must have plenty of practice on grass courts, which are much faster than the hard courts with which they are familiar.

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S.I.